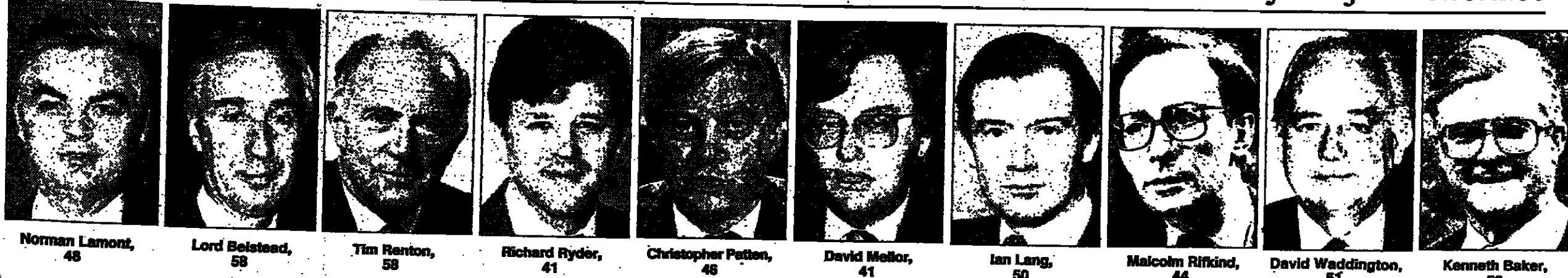


Campaign leaders rewarded as Lamont becomes chancellor, Mellor and Ryder join cabinet



Major hands poll tax to Heseltine

Patten replaces Baker as chairman; Parkinson quits

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major moved swiftly yesterday to rebuild Conservative party unity by restoring Michael Heseltine to the cabinet as environment secretary, where he will oversee poll tax reform, and by appointing Chris Patten, who led Douglas Hurd's campaign team, the new party chairman.

Mr Major, who dismissed no one, gave the prize post of Chancellor of the Exchequer to his own campaign manager, Norman Lamont, previously chief secretary to the Treasury. Richard Ryder, the other key strategist in the Major campaign for No 10, becomes chief whip.

Douglas Hurd, as expected,

ON OTHER PAGES
Three pages of reports and analysis... 2, 3, 5
Leon Brittan... page 18
Leading article... page 19
Letters... page 19
Health... page 22
City reaction... page 31

is to stay on as foreign secretary. There will be no women in the cabinet, whose average age drops from 53.3 to 51.8. Only two new names are added to the team which Mrs Thatcher left.

David Mellor, the arts minister and another of the Major campaign team, receives his long-awaited promotion to the cabinet as chief secretary to the Treasury, and Ian Lang, previously minister of state and another Major campaigner, becomes Scottish secretary. Mr Lang and Mr Ryder become privy counsellors.

Cecil Parkinson, the former transport secretary, submitted his resignation before the cabinet-making began, having told his constituency party the night before that he did not intend to fight the next election. Lord Belstead, the previous Leader of the House of Lords, has been dropped but will stay on in the government as a minister of state.

David Waddington, previously home secretary, is to receive a peerage and will become Leader of the House of Lords as Lord Privy Seal. That will mean a by-election early in the new year in his Ribblesdale constituency. Mr Waddington's majority at the last election was 19,528 (39.4 per cent), a safe enough margin provided that the government's honeymoon in the opinion polls continues.

Kenneth Baker, formerly the party chairman, takes over as home secretary in what Tory MPs were last night calling a carefully balanced cabinet. Malcolm Rifkind, formerly Scottish secretary, succeeds Mr Parkinson as transport secretary.

There were rumours around the Commons last night that some ministers had initially balked at the offers they were given and that Mr Baker had not been first choice for home secretary. Sources insisted last night, however, that each minister was content with the offer made to him and said that no one other than Mr Baker had been offered the Home Office.

Mr Heseltine, back in the cabinet for the first time since he left over the Westland affair in January 1986, will have to find a way of reforming the poll tax, which the three leadership candidates promised to amend. Mr Patten has already delivered to the new prime minister op-

tions for reforming the community charge.

Mr Patten will have the crucial task of gingering up campaigning machinery after the defeats this year in Eastbourne and Mid Staffordshire. His task will be to ensure that the turn-around in the opinion polls which followed Mrs Thatcher's departure is more than a nine-day wonder as the electorate returns to contemplation of economic problems.

The elevation of Mr Lamont to Chancellor of the Exchequer was taken as reassurance by Euro-sceptics that there would be no significant softening of British attitudes to economic and monetary union at next month's European Council meeting in Rome. During the contest between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine, Mr Lamont spoke of the threat of back-door federalism.

Mr Rifkind had been secretary of state for Scotland since 1986, struggling against the background of the party's unpopularity north of the Border. He now has the chance to prove himself with his own general department, while Mr Lang starts with the advantage of the boost to the party's poll rating in Scotland.

Mr Major, who saw the Queen at 10.30am yesterday, said in a statement when he arrived back at Downing Street half an hour later, that he hoped to prove in the next few years that the trust colleagues had placed in him had been fully justified.

The new prime minister returned to the "classless society" theme which he had made a centrepiece of his election campaign, saying, "I certainly hope... to build a society of opportunity. By that I mean an open society, a society in which what people fulfil will depend upon their talent, their application and their good fortune."

He said that the ending of the cold war and the coming of the single European market offered a new era of opportunity and pledged that Britain would play a full part in the building and development of an entirely new Europe.



Together at last: John Major and Michael Heseltine emphasising party unity yesterday

Swift action to stamp mark on government

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FROM the moment he arrived on the steps of 10 Downing Street yesterday John Major moved swiftly to stamp his style and authority on the government.

Whoever followed Margaret Thatcher as Conservative leader and prime minister faced a difficult task but by last night he had seized the initiative and begun the job of proving that he was his own man. He had announced a cabinet reshuffle, much more extensive than had been expected, and had brought back into the fold Michael Heseltine, the minister who walked out on Mrs Thatcher nearly five years ago and who she never asked to return.

In another important break with the Thatcher era, Mr Major replaced Bernard Ingham, the Downing Street press secretary, whose rumbustious but off-the-record briefings came to symbolise the combative and defiant manner of his mistress, with his own man from the Treasury Gus O'Donnell, aged 38, the product of a plate glass university.

On entering No 10, Margaret Thatcher struck a declamatory note that was to characterise her 11 years in power. Quoting St Francis of Assisi, she promised to bring harmony, truth and hope to Britain but instead ushered in an era characterised by division and contention.

Mr Major put aside such rhetoric yesterday as he stood with his wife Norma at his side. He set himself the more mundane task of building a country "at ease with itself" and improving the quality of

life for all. As for reconciliation, he let his actions speak for him, shaking hands with Michael Heseltine at the gateway to supreme political power.

The classless man was on show from the start. After his first speech as prime minister, he was asked by photographers to pose in front of the No 10 door. As a policeman moved forward to close the door, Mr Major did it himself.

The charm of the Majors is their very ordinariness. Despite being in the cabinet for three years, he still looks ill at ease when he waves for the benefit of the cameras. His wife looks even more overwhelmed. They are not going to let his election to the highest office of state change their lifestyle. Mrs Major will continue to spend most of the week at their home in Great Stukeley, looking after their two teenage children. Several MPs said last night that their unpretentious style was refreshing and would prove attractive to the country.

His managerial style was shown in the decisive and calm manner in which he carried out a reshuffle that surprised Westminster by its far-reaching nature. He promoted fresh faces from his own generation and younger across all wings of the party. It was in strong contrast to some of the later Thatcher cabinet reshuffles. He has excited his MPs and he hopes the country as well. On Tuesday it was Margaret Thatcher's cabinet but by last night there was no doubt in anyone's mind that it was John Major's cabinet.

Labour backs one currency

Labour's national executive agreed that it would be against the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from full monetary union in Europe and the establishment of the single currency. The statement was a clear attempt to outflank the government on a policy where there are deep Conservative divisions. Page 5

Vicar guilty



The Rev Tom Tyler, aged 51, was ordered out of his parish in the West Sussex village of Henfield after he was found guilty of adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner. Page 9

County doomed

Humberside, the county created in 1974, faces abolition after the Local Government Boundary Commission recommended that it be split between Lincolnshire and a new authority covering east Yorkshire. Page 11

Fish famine

Unless four out of every ten fishing boats in the European Community are scrapped, there will soon be no cod, haddock or other species left to fish in the North Sea. Manuel Marin, the fisheries commissioner said. Page 14

ICI warning

ICI told its 134,000 employees by letter that it would seek to reduce its waste by 50 per cent over the next five years and plants which do not meet the new standards will face closure. Page 31

INDEX

Arts	27-28
Births, marriages, deaths	21
Books	26
Business	31-38
Court & social	21-22
Crosswords	21-22
Health	22
Law Report	40-44
Leading articles	19
Letters	19-40
Obituaries	20
Science & Technology	24-25
Sport	40-44
TV & radio	29
Weather	30

Interest rates hope

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont, the new Chancellor, will enjoy a brief window of opportunity to cut British interest rates before Christmas, because Germany is almost certain to delay any tightening of its monetary policies until February or March, when the Bundesbank considers an upward move in interest rates likely. A British decision to cut rates in the wake of a German move in the opposite direction would undermine confidence in the pound and in the government's commitment to abide by the rules of the EMS.

Full report, page 31

Iraq warned on eve of UN vote

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE anti-Iraq alliance sent President Saddam Hussein a series of warnings last night on the eve of the United Nations vote on a resolution permitting the use of force to solve the Gulf confrontation.

The French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, said it was President Saddam's last chance to avoid war.

In Washington, President Bush's spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, rejected an Iraqi appeal for negotiations. Expressing confidence that the UN will authorise the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait after January 15, he said: "We are not going to approve his aggression by rewarding him with some kind of unilateral negotiations."

As the diplomatic options appeared to be running out, the Iraqi leader seemed to detect a less bellicose attitude on the part of the new British prime minister, John Major, in contrast to his predecessor. Meeting Tony Benn, the Labour MP, he said more British hostages would be freed as a result of the MP's mission.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, flies to New York today to reinforce the tough line against Iraq. He is expected to make a strong restatement of Britain's commitment to free Kuwait.

The unknown quantity in the UN remains China which, as a member of the security council, could still veto the resolution. As he left for the UN yesterday, Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister, strongly indicated he would not vote in favour of the use of

force. But he declined to say whether China would veto the resolution or allow it to pass by abstaining.

The resolution, which authorises the use of "all means necessary" to drive Iraq from Kuwait if its forces do not pull out before the deadline, is expected to pass with a clear majority. Only Cuba and Yemen on the 15-nation council are expected to vote against. Colombia and Malaysia are wavering between abstention and a positive vote, diplomats say.

A Chinese veto is considered extremely unlikely in view of the fact that the Chinese foreign minister is scheduled to travel on after the vote to Washington, where he was expected to meet President Bush. Mr Qian's visit will be the first trip to Washington by a Chinese leader since the US banned high-level exchanges after the killings last year in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

James Baker was due to arrive in New York yesterday to begin a round of bilateral meetings with other security council foreign ministers.

The US was confident it could resist pressure for an embarrassing vote in the security council on a resolution which would expand the mandate of UN observers in the territories to include protection of the Palestinians there.

Mr Baker believes he has enough support to delay a vote that could lead to a US veto.

Peace chance, page 12
Syrian links, page 30

Tales from the White House

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

RONALD Reagan published his autobiography with much fanfare earlier this month, but American readers are proving less enthusiastic about the last president's memoirs than they are for another inside account of White House life—one seen from the point of view of the dog.

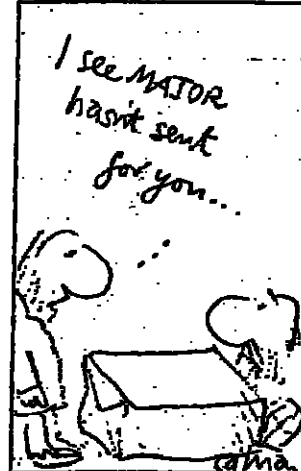
To the embarrassment of Simon and Schuster, the publishers who paid \$6 million (£3 million) in advance for Mr Reagan's *An American Life*, the memoirs are being overshadowed in the best-seller charts by the memoirs of Mildred Kerr Bush, the First Dog. Both memoirs, which are vying for the Christmas rush, are ghost-written. Mr Rea-

gan's dictation was spun into 748 pages for him by a former *New York Times* reporter and a team of editors. *Millie's Book*, which has now spent nine weeks high on the best-seller lists, was "dictated" to Barbara Bush and polished by editors at William Morrow.

While Mr Reagan has been doing the new author's rounds of the talk shows, the springer spaniel has left the job to her collaborator, who is donating the profits to a literacy fund. Reviewers have been kinder to the canine confessions than to Mr Reagan's efforts, which revealed no juicy White House tidbits and nothing beyond the already published record of his years in office.

Millie, who joins the long list of figures to dish the dope from the inside, sticks to a fairly banal tone proclaiming: "The Bushes love me. But they love people more."

Inevitably, the publishing success of the First Dog has prompted some easy gibes from Mr Reagan's traditional critics. *The Washington Post's* chief political columnist concluded that Mr Reagan's book was based on no more fact than Millie's. "What will fascinate the historians of this period is that Reagan, like Millie, and her mistress, understands that his standing as a figure in popular culture depends mainly on the myth he created of himself."



Economic convert wins reward

By JAMIE DETTMER

SEVENTEEN years ago, a young Conservative MP enjoying only his second year in the Commons rose on the back benches to attack the dangerous new economic philosophy of monetarism.

The recently-elected MP for Kingston upon Thames, Norman Lamont, issued a warning against a dramatic reduction in the supply of money because it would lead to a slowdown in production and a rise in unemployment.

Mr Lamont's speech was ill-timed. Within two years a strong advocate of monetarism was elected leader of the party. The job prospects for the ambitious Mr Lamont appeared gloomy. The Surrey MP was, however, able. He was appointed to help Sally Oppenheim as an assistant Opposition spokesman on consumer protection.

He moved from there to a shadow industry brief and argued stoutly for the British Leyland conglomerate to be split and sold off. He accused the National Enterprise Board of being a hospital for industrial lame ducks. The conversion was complete.

His promotion to Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday came as no surprise to Whitehall insiders. He has worked closely and well with John Major for several years at the Treasury and he masterminded the prime minister's well-organised leadership campaign. "It would have been a tremendous snub if Norman had not been given the post," a senior Tory MP said.

Mr Lamont has had a successful year as chief secretary. He proved effective in keeping down public expenditure this autumn, in spite of pressure from spending ministers not just to loosen the purse-strings but to open the vault. The public spending negotiations were the toughest for nearly a decade. He

worked well with Margaret Thatcher to avoid spending bids going to the Star Chamber, the final adjudication process that Mr Major had avoided in his years as chief secretary.

There can be no lingering doubts that Mr Lamont is as dry as can be on economics now. It was not always the case and his jump from the liberal wing of the party in 1975 came as a surprise to many of his friends.

Mr Lamont was born in Lerwick, the Shetlands, in 1942. His father was a surgeon. An ancestor had been a Liberal MP for the islands. He was educated at Loretto School and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Like so many successful politicians before him, he devoted considerable time to politics at university.

He was chairman of the university Conservative association and president of the Cambridge Union. After Cambridge, he became a personal assistant to Tory MP Duncan Sandys. He progressed to the Conservative Research Department. After fighting the hopeless seat of Hull East in June 1970, he was appointed chairman of the Bow Group, an organisation firmly on the liberal wing of the party.

He married his wife, Alice, in 1971 and they have a son and daughter. For two years he worked as a merchant banker at N.M. Rothschild. In 1972, he was elected as MP for Kingston upon Thames.

He soon displayed his grasp of financial detail. John Gilbert, the Labour chief secretary, attacked him for asking a written question that required 462 calculations before it could be answered.

Leon Brittan, Mary Ann Sieghart, Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19
Mr Major's health, page 22



Steps of progress: Norman Lamont, who took a tough line with ministers during the autumn public spending negotiations, has been given the job of chancellor

Baker's transfer silences Tory critics

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE years ago, in a poll of Conservative backbenchers, Kenneth Baker was named as the man most likely to succeed Margaret Thatcher. Yesterday, as the ground again shifted beneath the cabinet, there was speculation that the Conservative party chairman might be out of a job.

In the event, Mr Baker confounded detractors within his party and the press, swapping his Smith Square address for an even more imposing perch at Queen Anne's Gate. Although his antecedents suggest that, as an opponent of hanging, Mr Baker will prove a liberal home secretary, he has been moving to the right recently, not least in his tendency to blame contemporary social ills on the permissive society of the 1960s.

The smooth-talking and unfailingly cheerful Mr Baker was probably relieved to be on the move again, especially to one of the great offices of state. His 16 months as Tory chairman must have been a miserable time for a man whose natural combativeness has been overshadowed by feuding among his troops.

By the time the former Heathite firmly hitched his star to Mrs Thatcher's wagon last summer by becoming sales director for her brand of radical, reforming Conservatism, the party's fortunes were on the slide in the polls. By-election disasters, most notably Mid-Staffordshire, Eastbourne and Bradford North, only compounded the gloom.

However, for Mr Baker, worse was to come. Almost alone among his cabinet colleagues, he advised the prime minister to fight on as she consulted them last week. The next morning she accepted the inevitable and resigned, leaving Mr Baker and one or two loyalists such as Cecil Parkinson out on a limb.

The word from around the cabinet table is that Mr Baker let her down by not having the courage to tell her that the cards were stacked against her. His appointment as home secretary is a signal that John Major cannot be counted among those who believe that Mr Baker jumped the wrong way. His loyalty to the prime minister has been rewarded by the man long acknowledged as her appointed successor.

In 1975, when Mrs Thatcher won the party leadership, Mr Baker, parliamentary private secretary to Edward Heath, stood by his doomed leader. Then, however, he got scant reward for his pains, spending the next six years on the backbenches.

He came into the government in 1981, first as information technology minister, then as minister for local government. But it was his appointment as environment secretary in 1985 that earned Mr Baker, aged 56, his reputation as a minister who leaves behind him unexploded bombs for others to defuse.

He sold the poll tax to Mrs Thatcher in 1986. It is still ticking and yesterday, in a sublime political irony, the man who first pronounced it unworkable, Michael Heseltine, was sent in to dismantle the mechanism.

Mr Baker's most successful period was as education secretary from 1986-89. He faced down teacher unions and skillfully pushed through a series of "parent power" reforms.

Heseltine's return a fitting reward for tireless energy

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's return to the senior ranks of government after almost five years in the political wilderness is an achievement rare in British politics.

His comeback is a tribute to the tireless energy and the towering ambition that sustained him in his drive for the leadership. Thwarted in his desire to be prime minister, Mr Heseltine has nevertheless built a strong following in the parliamentary party and country which the new prime minister could not ignore.

However, John Major has shown shrewdness in asking Mr Heseltine to return to the department where he was secretary of state during the first Thatcher administration. In doing so, he has handed Mr Heseltine a poisoned chalice.

A strong critic of the poll tax, Mr Heseltine made a fundamental review of the charge a key element in his quest for the leadership. By appointing him environment secretary, the prime minister has, in effect, challenged Mr Heseltine to make the tax more acceptable.

Mr Heseltine arrives back at the environment department with ideas to bring radical change to local government. However, it is his ideas for reforming the poll tax which will attract most attention. He has argued that any tax must be fair and recommended a banding system in which it would be related to ability to pay.

He has argued that the government could consider transferring the costs of

locally funded education to central government. There are, however, serious doubts whether this could be done without a substantial increase in income tax.

It would cost £1 billion to reduce the poll tax by £28 a head and to get poll tax bills below an average of £300 next year would cost £4 billion. Exempting those who pay only 20 per cent, students and those on benefit, would cost £500 million.

Mr Heseltine's ideas to rebuild municipal pride would involve local government in yet another upheaval. He wants to replace overlapping two-tier authorities with unitary authorities run by directly elected mayors.

The new environment secretary has also said he wants to redress the balance between the north and south by restricting development in the southeast and channeling more money into institutions similar to the Merseyside Development Corporation. He has argued for the balance of public spending to be tilted further towards investment, with priority given to transport infrastructure and money to regenerate inner cities.

His interest in the inner cities stems from his experience in 1981 when, in the wake of the riots in Toxteth, Liverpool, he was unofficially labelled Mr Merseyside. He clashed with Mrs Thatcher over the cause of urban riots and was the author of a cabinet paper entitled *It took a riot*.

Leading article, page 19

Safe rather than stylish politician

By KERRY GILL

AS NEW secretary of state, Ian Lang has the task of promoting, rather than consolidating, government policies in Scotland.

Mr Lang, Malcolm Rifkind's senior Minister of State since 1987, has been responsible for industry at a time when traditional industries have all but disappeared. He can point to almost a year of falling unemployment, compared with lengthening queue lines in England. Much of his success is due to the growing electronics industry in the "Silicon Glen", the government having attracted overseas investment in spite of fierce competition from other EC countries.

Mr Lang, aged 50, inherits Mr Rifkind's uphill struggle to sell the poll tax to the Scots. His only hope will be a revision of the tax structure that, possibly, will lead to 100 per cent rebates for the poor and for students.

He has kept a fairly low profile during his time at the Scottish Office. He won his largely rural Galloway and Upper Nithsdale seat from the Scottish National party in the 1979 election, and since then has served in a variety of government posts. Before joining the Scottish Office he spent time in the whips' office and as an under-secretary at the employment department. He is regarded as a safe, rather than stylish, politician reflecting the "One Nation" Conservative philosophy.

Rifkind's Scottish battle lost

By KERRY GILL

Malcolm Rifkind, aged 44, was made Scottish Secretary in 1986 and immediately promised a strong revival of the party support north of the border. A year later he was in the difficult position of having to run the Scottish office when the Tories were left with only 10 MPs after the general election.

Since 1987 the Scottish Tory party has suffered its worst period of unpopularity, vying with the Scottish National Party in the polls for a poor second place behind Labour. Under Mr Rifkind, the government introduced wide ranging changes in education and imposed the community charge on Scotland a year earlier than in England and Wales. Opinion poll ratings dropped as low as 15 per cent.

His most troublesome period began in May this year at the Scottish party conference in Aberdeen. Right wing Scottish MPs publicly suggested he should be replaced by Michael Forsyth, the then strongly Thatcherite party chairman in Scotland.

Doubts over his position began when he failed to warn the Cabinet, and John Major in particular, that there would be trouble over English poll tax concessions not made retrospective in Scotland. Later that month Mr Rifkind was embarrassed by British Steel's decision to close the Ravenscraig strip mill with the loss of 770 jobs.

Intellectual who survived the poisoned chalice

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

CHRIS Patten was handed the poisoned chalice by Margaret Thatcher when she named him environment secretary last year with the task of seeing through the poll tax. He knew he could succeed only by expending much of the political capital and goodwill he had accumulated on his progress through the party as think-tanker and junior minister.

He suffered too as the cabinet's Mr Green. Though he put together a coherent government strategy for the environment, hurdling some Whitehall barriers, he saw his mammoth environment white paper circumscribed by resistance from other departments. Now, as party chairman, the genial, relaxed intellectual has the chance to rebuild some credit in the political bank.

He can be expected to shake up the central office machine and its campaigning arm. He has no need to feel his way around the party organism, having been the party's director of research in the 1970s. Mrs Thatcher clashed with him when she merged that department with the rest of the machine.

Mr Patten rose with difficulty under her. He was

sacked as secretary to the shadow cabinet when she came to the party leadership. A one-time Jim Prior groupie and friend of the sacked Sir Ian Gilmour, he was regarded as suspiciously wet by the "one of us" brigade.

Mrs Thatcher was never able to resist a good mind, however, and he won his way back to favour on sheer ability, eventually being trusted to the extent that he became one of her speech-writing team for big occasions.

Mr Patten's appointment, after heading Douglas Hurd's leadership campaign team, is one that will confirm John Major is no right-wing ideologue. In 1981 Mr Patten was one of the contributors to the anti-monetarist, interventionist pamphlet *Changing Gear* and he rebelled occasionally in the early 1980s on cuts in housing and unemployment benefit. He made his peace long ago with Thatcherite economics, however, acknowledging that the wets had essentially lost the argument and noting that they had won some increases in public spending in return.

He is regarded still as on the left of the party and will have

initial difficulties with party loyalists who will have noted that he was one of those at the meeting in the home of Tristan Garel-Jones last week when five cabinet ministers decided that Mrs Thatcher could not be saved and must be advised to go.

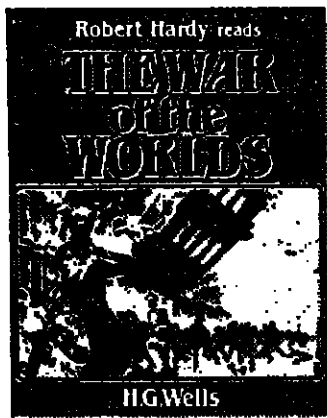
Chris Patten came in for Bath as one of the vintage 1979 intake of Tory MPs, one of a clutch of young politicians who already knew most of the senior party figures from research department days.

He was PPS first to Norman St John Stevas and then to Patrick Jenkin. In 1983 he went as the statutory Roman Catholic junior minister to the Northern Ireland Office with Jim Prior. In 1985 he became Minister of State for Education and in 1986 got his own department as overseas aid minister.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's *Times*, we quoted Lord Hanson as saying that John Major "looks like someone on the 7.15 to Waterloo". This quotation was, in fact, from the head of another company, and we apologise for the error.

We've much more than music on tape at Smith's.



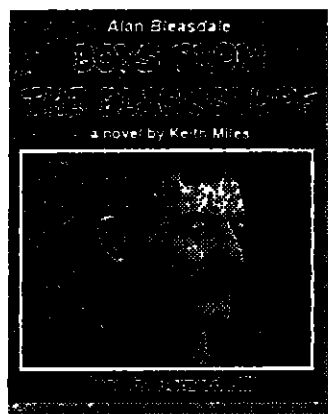
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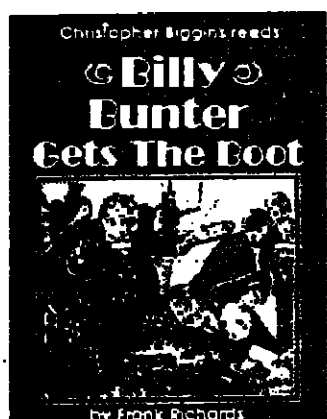
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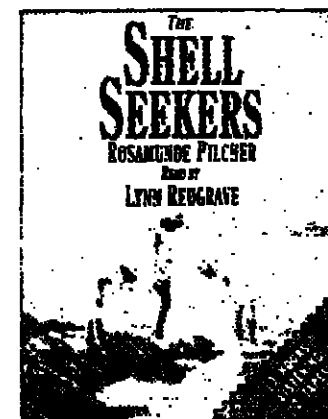
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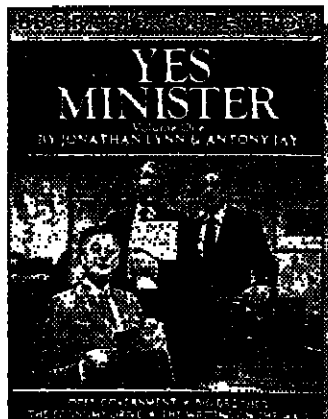
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Parkinson's final goodbye to what might have been

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CECIL Parkinson, the son of a Lancashire railwayman who rose to become the Essex at the court of Margaret, resigned as transport secretary yesterday, after declaring his intention not to stand at the next general election.

After offering his resignation to John Major, the prime minister, Mr Parkinson said he was "delighted that we have elected such a fine leader to succeed Margaret Thatcher, and although I will not be working in his government, I will continue to have my total support."

Mr Parkinson's decision ends a once-promising political career. It began after being elevated from the rank of junior minister to help mastermind the Conservatives' 1983 general election campaign, but his prospects were fatally compromised by the scandal of his affair with Sarah Keays, his former secretary.

In spite of the partial rehabilitation engineered by his political mentor, Mrs Thatcher, which led to his appointment as energy secretary in 1987, Mr Parkinson's career never recovered from the scandal of his affair with Sarah Keays, his former secretary.

Educated at the Royal Lancaster grammar school, and

Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he obtained a lower second in English and a third in law, Mr Parkinson had long abandoned his youthful affiliation with the Labour party by the time he qualified as a chartered accountant.

But it was his marriage to Ann Jarvis, the daughter of a well-heeled Harpenden builder and an ardent Tory loyalist, which gave him entry to the social circle of the Home Counties, and helped him to gain access to the City accountants West, Wake, Price and Co.

Mr Parkinson entered parliament in 1970 as the member for Enfield West, and by the time he was appointed trade minister in 1979 his construction and building interests, which were developed with the knowledge he acquired as a partner with West, Wake, Price and Co, were worth an estimated £750,000.

It was Mrs Thatcher who plucked him from the junior ministerial ranks to become chairman of the party in 1981, where he got about strengthening the constituency associations that were to play a central role in the 1983 election victory, before being elevated into the Falklands war cabinet the following year.

As a reward for his part in

Mrs Thatcher's second election victory, Mr Parkinson was "pencilled in" as the next foreign secretary. But his looming domestic crisis forced Mrs Thatcher to act cautiously and offer him trade and industry instead.

Within five months his career seemed over. Mr Parkinson's affair with Miss Keays, who was to have his child, dominated the Conservative conference in Blackpool. Mr Parkinson was forced to resign after *The Times* published a statement by Miss Keays, claiming that he had reneged on a promise to marry her.

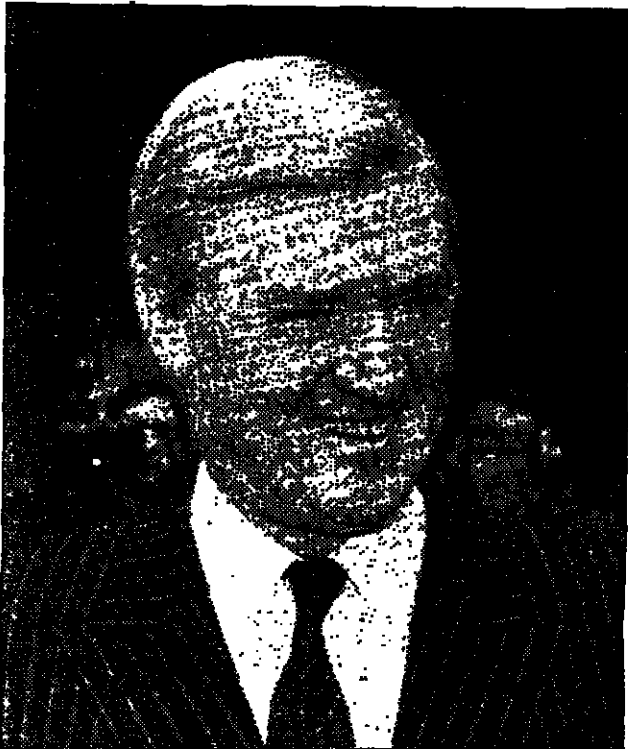
During the four years Mr Parkinson was to spend in the political wilderness, he remained a close confidant of Mrs Thatcher. Like Lazarus, Mr Parkinson reappeared on the scene after Mrs Thatcher's third election victory, when he was appointed energy secretary with the task of privatising the electricity generating industry.

If Mr Parkinson still cherished notions of becoming foreign secretary, after his fall from grace there was about as much prospect of securing the appellation "Parkinson of the FO" as there was of the Milky Way being extinguished. In 1989, he was shifted to the transport department, a move which observers were unable to categorise as a step up or a step down.

While Mr Parkinson struggled to prevent transport issues becoming an electoral liability, the past came back to haunt him yet again in the form of a scathing select committee report, published earlier this year, over his "lightweight" handling of electricity privatisation, which John Wakeham, his successor, was being credited with sorting out.

Mr Parkinson, however, managed to leave the transport department in better shape than he found it. Spending on roads and railways will increase to £16 billion over the next three years, double the amount spent during the previous three years. The achievement will do little to appease the critics of government transport policy, but it is none the less valid for that.

Lois Brittan, Mary Ann Sieghart, Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Letters, page 19
Major's health, page 22



Bittersweet parting: Cecil Parkinson outside the transport ministry announcing his resignation

Thatcher's 24-hour bodyguard

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER Margaret Thatcher remains in public life after leaving Downing Street she is destined to retain at least one trapping of power. A retinue of Special Branch bodyguards from Scotland Yard will continue to protect her for years to come. An armed officer will be close by 24 hours a day.

No one is likely to forget that the IRA tried and almost succeeded in removing Mrs Thatcher when it bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984. She has remained at the top of the IRA target list.

The new Thatcher home in south London is certain to have been checked for its security and extra devices will have been installed. It can cost up to £40,000 to secure an existing home.

John Major and his family will face the full panoply of police protection covering Downing Street, his normal London home and the family house in his constituency. One of the fleet of armoured VIP limousines, built at a cost of £50,000 or more each, will be used to ferry him between engagements.

Normal family life continues despite father's new job

By LIN JENKINS

NORMA Major's determination that family life be left largely uninterrupted by her husband's rapid rise to power was well in evidence yesterday.

While she was in London to take her place during her husband's visit to Buckingham Palace, the couple's two children remained in Cambridgeshire away from the hectic events at No 10.

Mrs Major and her husband do not plan to make 10 Downing Street their family home. Instead, she will base herself at their constituency home, travelling up to Downing Street when necessary. It is thought that Mr Major will use the four-bedroom flat upstairs at No 10 during the week, returning home, as he often did as chancellor, at weekends.

Yesterday life carried on as normal for the rest of the Major family. Daughter Elizabeth, aged 19, drove herself from the modest house in Great Stukeley to the village veterinary practice where she had worked until recently. Matthew Tong, one of the veterinary surgeons, said:

"She was here to see friends, but does not want to talk about her father's position. Since passing her A-levels earlier this year, Elizabeth has been training as a veterinary nurse at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket. Paul Cunningham, spokesman, said she was one of eight nurses at the trust. "In the short time she has been here she has proved herself a very likeable and capable person."

Her brother James, aged 15, spent yesterday at the £3,800 a year Kimbolton School as usual after spending the previous evening celebrating his father's victory at the Huntingdon Conservative Club.

Tina Folkes, a Fellow pupil, said: "I play football with James and he is a good chap. We are all pleased for him, but things will not be that different now his Dad is PM. We all get on with him. He is no show-off."

Mrs Major, who spent her first day at Number 10 yesterday, told the *Cambridge Evening News* she had been given a map of the house to help her find her way around.

Heseltine backers run into local wrath

By BILL FROST

AN APPEAL by Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, for peace and harmony in the aftermath of the leadership contest appeared to have fallen on deaf ears last night. Prominent Heseltine supporters still face the possibility of deselection by Thatcher loyalists in their constituencies.

Michael Mates, the MP for East Hampshire and Mr Heseltine's campaign manager, has been censured by 62 members of his local party. They have served notice that they intend to start a selection procedure for a new candidate to represent the seat at the next election. The Petersfield branch of the party meets in similar mood on Saturday. It will be voting on a motion of no-confidence in the sitting MP.

Michael Turner Bridger, chairman of the East Hampshire Conservative Association, said: "These developments are a measure of the loyalty for Mrs Thatcher. The feeling seems to be how dare Mr Mates support someone who brought her down."

Mr Turner Bridger said he feared that Mr Mates would stand as an independent Conservative if deselected and split the party vote, handing the seat to the Liberal Democrats. "I want Michael to stay. He is a very good MP and I admire him for having the courage of his convictions, unlike the members who claimed to vote for Mrs Thatcher and actually supported someone else."

Similar internecine conflict has gripped the Bexleyheath constituency of Cyril Townsend, another leading member of the Thatcher camp. "A lot of people were very unhappy over Cyril's behaviour and they remain unhappy. Some are considering deselection," Alec Mayne, the agent, said. Mr Townsend has not spoken to local party officials since Mr Major's victory.

Emma Nicholson, the MP for Torridge and West Devon, was in political hot water too. Patrick Lampedusa, her agent, said: "We have received 400 calls disagreeing with her for supporting Mr Heseltine against Mrs Thatcher. Twenty-seven per cent of those who rang thought she should be deselected."

Mr Lampedusa said feelings among Thatcher loyalists in the constituency were still running high. "We can only hope things will cool down."



Route to No 10: John Major leaving Buckingham Palace after receiving the seals of the office of prime minister

Comings and goings mark the day

By WILLIAM CASH AND RICHARD FORD

THE dawn of a new era began before sunrise yesterday as a first floor light was switched on at 11 Downing Street. John Major, still Chancellor of the Exchequer, pulled back a not curtain and peered out at the media waiting to record the most significant day of his political life.

A few hundred yards away in makeshift television studios, fevered speculation was underway about the shape of the new government. Around Westminster, ministers and backbenchers were waiting nervously by telephones, and small crowds gathered along Whitehall and outside Buckingham Palace to witness the first transfer of power at Downing Street for 11 years.

6.48am: Lights go on in No 11 Downing Street.

7.20: Denis Thatcher leaves No 10.

8.25: Staff from the Central Office of Information erect an address system in anticipation of Margaret Thatcher's departing words and the new prime minister's first comments to the nation.

8.58: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is the first of many ministers to visit Downing Street. Twenty-two minutes later, Mrs Thatcher's bodyguards put farewell

presents from Downing Street staff into a car.

9.25: Mr Hurd leaves No 11 Downing Street smiling, but refused to say whether he had a new job.

9.30: Mrs Thatcher steps out of No 10 for the last time as prime minister. With her husband, her son Mark, and bodyguards near by, she made a farewell speech, thanking the staff. "We are leaving Downing Street for the last time after 11½ wonderful years, we are very happy that we leave the United Kingdom in a very very much better state than when we came 11½ ago."

9.35: Mrs Thatcher arrives at Buckingham Palace to resign, and 28 minutes later Cecil Parkinson announces he is quitting the cabinet and retiring from politics at the next election.

10.16: Mrs Thatcher leaves Buckingham Palace.

10.28: John and Norma Major leave 11 Downing Street for the palace and his appointment as prime minister.

10.32: The Majors arrive at the palace, leaving at 11.13.

11.15: The new prime minister arrives at 10 Downing Street and makes his first speech. Speaking of Mrs Thatcher as a "towering prime minister" he said the 1990s

would be a decade of "remarkable opportunities".

11.19: Mr Major and his wife enter No 10, and are met with applause from staff.

11.29: David Waddington, home secretary, visits 10 Downing Street.

11.44: Mr Waddington leaves looking stern-faced and refused to say whether he still had a job in the cabinet.

12.12: Michael Heseltine arrives to discuss his future.

12.41: John Major and Mr Heseltine shake hands on the steps of Downing Street.

12.45: Norman Lamont, Mr Major's campaign manager, hurried inside No 10 refusing to answer questions.

1.03: Mr Lamont bounces down the steps of No 10 smiling, but refused to say whether he was the new chancellor.

1.15: David Mellor, arts minister, arrives at No 10.

1.17: Kenneth Baker, party chairman, visits the new prime minister.

1.37: Denis Thatcher's large blue golf bag is packed into a Mercedes. A minute later Mr Baker departs.

1.39: Central office delivers a package of good luck cards to be signed by Mr Major the candidates in today's Paisley by-elections.

2.06: David Mellor leaves No 10, looking ebullient. He shook his head when asked if he was the new party chairman and said: "We'll see. It's a good week for Chelsea fans."

2.25: Chris Patten, environment secretary, arrives. He leaves 25 minutes later after being appointed party chairman.

3.22: Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, arrived to see the new prime minister.

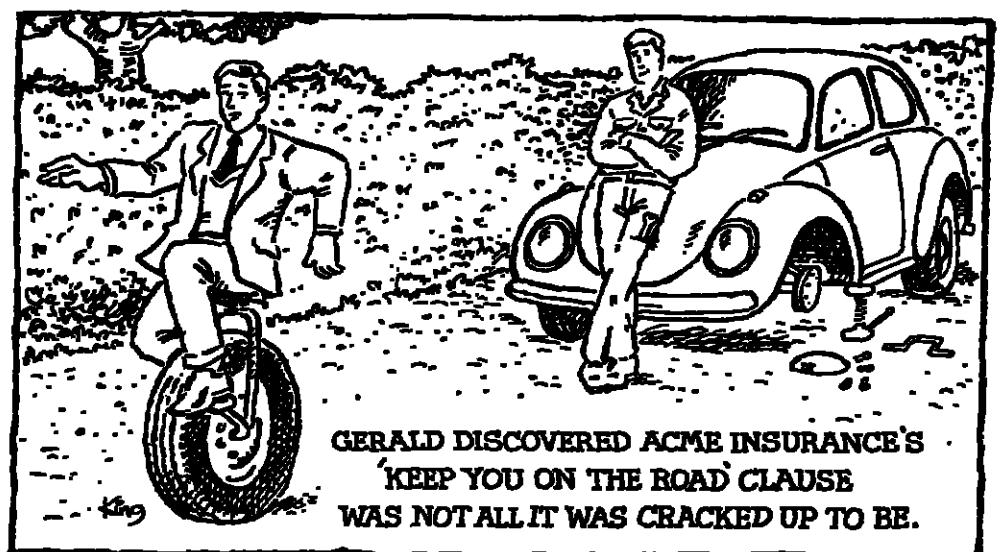
3.45: Mr Rifkind left No 10. Asked what the atmosphere in Downing Street was, he said: "These are very interesting times."

Two hours later it was announced that he had been appointed to replace Cecil Parkinson as transport secretary.

5.30: Elizabeth Major, the prime minister's daughter, arrived at No 10 to see her parents for the first time since Mr Major's appointment as prime minister. She went inside without commenting.

5.35: The cabinet changes Mr Major had worked on all day were announced to journalists at Westminster.

Mr Major's staff said he had no plans to leave his new residence last night where he would be holding meetings with colleagues and officials.



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Namesakes in fact, fiction and history

By PHILIP HOWARD, LITERARY EDITOR

IN LITERATURE at least, the new prime minister's name is well-known. The locus classicus is Major Major *Catch-22*, or, to give him his full name and military rank, Major Major Major. Well, it made a suitably surrealist intro to a chapter in Joseph Heller's mythopoetic and bitter satire on the second world war. Major Major is the seriously batty squadron commander of American bomber pilots on a Mediterranean island during the Italian campaign, when the real enemy is on our side of the fence.

Major Major's father is the kind of strong-minded Tory supporter John Major has already met as chancellor, and will meet many more of. He was a Calvinist alfalfa-farmer, a rugged individualist who held that state aid to anyone but farmers was creeping socialism. He was an outspoken champion of economy in government, provided it did not prevent government paying farmers as much as they could get for all the alfalfa they produced that no one else wanted,

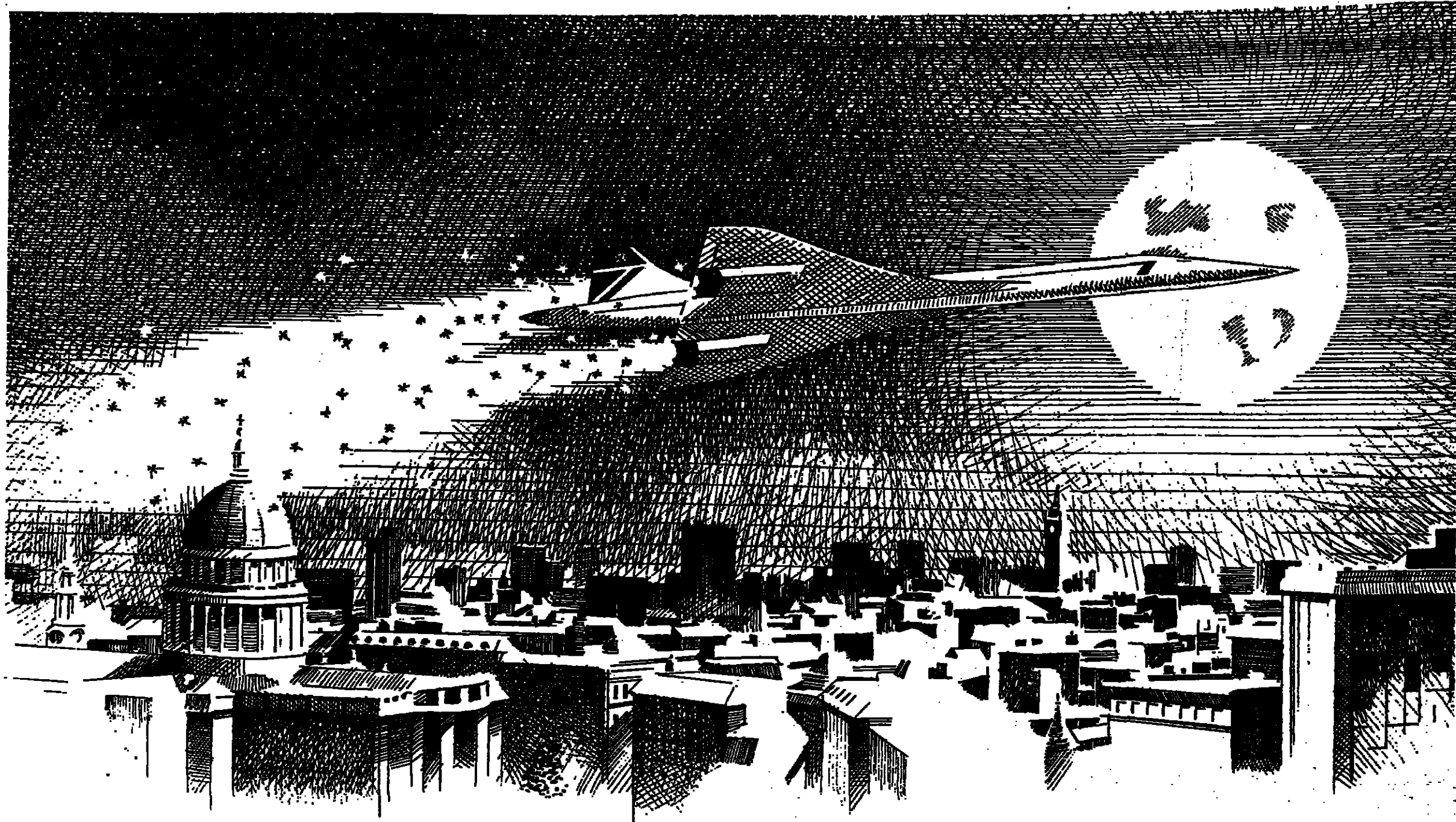
or for not producing alfalfa at all. The EC equivalent is set-aside. Major Major's father was a proud, independent man who was opposed to unemployment insurance, and never hesitated to wheedle for as much as he could get from whomever he could. Let us hope that our new Major is better at standing up to such blackmail than Major Major was.

A previous notable John Major lived between 1469 and 1550 and was popularly known as "the last of the school men", ie medieval philosophers. He lectured on scholastic logic and theology at Glasgow, St Andrew's and Paris, and wrote a Latin history of Greater Britain, both England and Scotland. His erudition in medieval learning was so covetous that Rabelais sent him up in *Pantagruel*. In the library of St Victor, Pantagruel finds a treatise by John Major *De modo faciendi bouidinis* (On the art of making black puddings).

Then there is Shaw's Major Barbara, a not very constant unilateral disarmament. In

Australian slang, to "Major-Mitchell" is to ride a zig-zag course across country, and get lost. This is an anonymous insult to Major Sir Thomas Mitchell (1792-1855), Surveyor-General to New South Wales, who proved the junction of the Murray and the Darling - which he had set out to disprove. He also went adrift from his proper Thatcherite route.

In Cockney rhyming slang, Major Loder means soda, to be taken with whisky, a drink to which he was partial. This comes from Major Eustace Loder (b. 1867), owner of a famous race horse called "Pretty Polly". Major Stevens is betting rhyming slang for even. And Major McFluffery is the stage cry for help from an actor to attract the attention of an inattentive prompter. Thomas Major and is a character in a play, *Yellow Sands*, by E. Philpotts, first produced in 1926, and Lucy Major is in *Once Aboard the Luger* by A. S. M. Hutchinson, 1908. There are others, but that's enough literary Majors to be going on with.



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Labour hints at readiness to back single currency

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday gave its clearest signal so far of its readiness to take Britain into a single European currency. In a significant development of its European policy, the ruling national executive committee agreed a statement that emphasised that it would be against the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from full monetary union and the establishment of a single currency.

Labour has made the convergence of the European Community economies an important prerequisite of a single currency. But yesterday's statement is a clear attempt to outflank the Major government on a policy where deep divisions remain within the Conservative party.

Labour sources said last night that the document committed the party in principle to eventual acceptance of a single currency. The publication of the new policy, along with fresh campaigns being launched next week on education and health, mark the start of Labour's new offensive against the government in the wake of Margaret Thatcher's resignation.

The document, drawn up by John Smith, the shadow chancellor, and his economic team, is intended to underline Labour's distinctive policy stance in advance of the December inter-governmental conference in Rome on economic and monetary union.

The document committed Labour to what it called a "steady hardening" of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM). This means that Labour would support a movement to the use of the narrow bands of the ERM.

The crucial passage, however, relates to the single currency. The document states that the process of increased monetary integration does not automatically require the creation of a single currency. "However, EC partners have made clear that, beyond the operation of a narrow band ERM, their desire is to move towards full monetary union and the establishment of a single currency."

The document then states: "Labour believes that it would not be in the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from such developments. In a period of critically important negotiations all options for the UK must remain open. There can be no question of accepting 'division two' status for our country in the community of the future."

The document says that the movement towards monetary union requires a substantial degree of convergence in the economies of the member states at improved levels of

performance. But it states that convergence must cover factors other than the inflation rate. These include the balanced growth of consumption and production and the ability of all member states to sustain adequate rates of the growth and employment without incurring unsustainable current account deficits.

The document therefore rejects the establishment of a rigid timetable for monetary union. It also rejects claims by opponents of monetary union that it would require a uniform economic policy throughout the whole community. Key economic policy decisions, could and must remain the responsibility of member states, it says.



Pause for thought: Tom King, the defence secretary, and Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, taking time yesterday to reflect on the dramatic pace of change. They were among more than 200 parliamentarians from the Western alliance and the Warsaw Pact due to be formally welcomed to London by the prime minister at the formal opening ceremony of the North Atlantic Assembly in Westminster Hall. Mr

King told them that they had chosen for their opening ceremony "the only half-hour" in the past 11½ years when the position of premier was vacant. At that stage John Major was at Buckingham Palace

accepting the Queen's invitation to form a government. The defence secretary said: "The prime minister had been invited to come to address you. She accepted very readily, but unfortunately he cannot come."

Scottish Tories seek an early visit

By KERRY GILL

SCOTTISH Conservatives were yesterday banking on an early visit to Scotland by John Major aimed at cementing the recovery in the party's fortunes. His appointment was seen as an opportunity to usher in a new era north of the Border that could result in the Tories doubling their seats at the next general election.

During his campaign Mr Major told Scottish MPs that, if elected, he would regard a trip to Scotland as an early priority. Party organisers hope that he will agree to attend a rally before Christmas. Lord Sanderson, the Scottish party chairman, said: "I would like to see John Major in Scotland at an early stage. Such a move is at the top of my agenda."

Allan Stewart, Conservative MP for Eastwood, a supporter of Mr Major's campaign, said opinion polls showed that a Tory recovery had started. A survey at the weekend indicated that, even before the outcome of the leadership race was known, support had risen by five points to 21 per cent. Other polls suggested even greater popularity.

Scottish Tories are anxious to demonstrate that Mr Major's attributes can rub off on voters; he is relatively unknown north of the Border, although it is believed that seven out of the 10 Scottish Tory MPs voted for him.

Since the departure of Mrs Thatcher, hopes have been raised for a revision of the poll tax. Local authorities face the problem of collecting the tax and have called for 100 per cent rebates for the poor and for students. Without a promise of concessions the Tories could lose their gains and face another election struggle.

Trade union leaders dismiss Major as Thatcher mark II

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

TRADE union leaders yesterday welcomed the elevation of John Major with the enthusiasm of a goldfish encountering a new piranha in a pond. Without exception, they had nothing good to say of the youngest prime minister this century, dismissing him as "Thatcher mark II".

In their terms, they have for more than a decade been fighting a defensive, rear-guard action against what they see as

an unremitting attack on their powers and internal democracy by a woman whom some of them have likened to an autocratic Ayatollah.

Ron Todd, general secretary of the transport workers' union, said: "The Tory parliamentary party has simply given us Thatcherism without Thatcher. Tory MPs have already established that they did not want Mrs Thatcher, yet she promises to be a back-seat driver under Mr Major's leadership."

He added: "It's time that the British people got a chance

to have their say about all this cynical manipulation. That must mean a general election now. Anything less than the supreme test of a ballot box is an insult to democracy."

Rodney Bickerstaff, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said that once Mr Major had enjoyed a short honeymoon period the "shutters will come down to announce business as usual at No 10". He added: "It's policies, not personalities that count. The Tory party may have changed its top wrapping but the government

is still bound up with the same failed agenda. John Major is one of the guilty men who must shoulder the blame for the deeper recession, growing inflation, mortgage misery and crumbling public services."

Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said: "John Major was Mrs Thatcher's chief illusionist, conjuring up new money for the NHS which on closer inspection turned out to be nothing of the sort. We can all hope for a change of policy but there is little in Mr Major's

record to suggest that the hope will be well founded."

Alan Jinkinson, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, said: "Our members will not be impressed unless Mr Major completely reverses government policy on the poll tax and on public services. Most likely it will turn out to be a different ringmaster with the same old Thatcherite circus."

John Ellis, general secretary of the CPSA, Britain's biggest civil service union, said that Mr Major would have to

combat low morale in the service. "We can only hope that he will act to restore the service to the status its loyal workers deserve."

Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said that union members and their families would judge Mr Major by the changes he made to the poll tax. Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, hoped that Mr Major's premiership would lead to a new era in Britain's relationship with the other states in the European community.

Maintaining fight against inflation is the top priority

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN Major is thought to be vehement on few issues, but on inflation he makes an exception. As prime minister, he will maintain the principal economic priority he followed as chancellor to get inflation back under control.

Leaving aside the effect any possible war in the Gulf might have on the figures, pay may be the main component of the inflation problem now facing Mr Major and his new government. His years in the Treasury have made him acutely aware of the ability of pay to blow the economy off course, and of the government's relatively limited powers to do much about it.

In the private sector, he will hope that taking Britain into the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) will bring down the level of pay increases, now running at 9-10 per cent. Entry to the ERM is meant to impose greater financial discipline and that might mean bearing down on wage costs.

The prime minister's problem, however, is that although companies want to see the cooling effect on the economy of lower pay settlements, they do not want to be the first to struggle against high employee pay expectations and sharp labour requirements at a time of continuing skill shortages. In the public sector, the government can hope to give a lead on pay rises by restraining increases for its own employees. It will do so, however, in the knowledge

that this may cause difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff.

Some public-sector groups, such as the nurses, have review body reports that it will be difficult for the government to back so close to a general election. Others, like civil servants, have pay agreements that were enthusiastically introduced by the Treasury to give greater flexibility, but which could produce high recommended settlements.

Mr Major is unlikely to exacerbate matters by introducing more industrial relations legislation. While preparatory work has been going on in the employment department, there is not enough material for a bill.

The prime minister shares Mr Howard's commitment to training to overcome the shortage of skilled workers, but he is unlikely to reverse the erosion of training budgets, which accompanied the de facto privatisation of government training to the business-dominated training and enterprise councils.

When as chancellor, Mr Major said of his policies that if it wasn't hurting, it wasn't working. Higher unemployment could well have been precisely what he was referring to. Companies expect it to grow, and the new prime minister is likely to continue to believe that higher unemployment is an unpleasant, but necessary, consequence of his responsibility to get the economy back on track.



Smith: responsible for policy document

Image barons ponder how to make up for all those suits

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE advertising and image-making industry was yesterday scratching its immaculately coiffed head at what, if asked, it might do about John Major. The collective view was, not very much.

Image improvement, it was generally agreed, was at the bottom of Mr Major's list of priorities. An impending general election might push such matters up his agenda, but for the moment his most exciting attribute was an aura of overpowering dullness.

"At least he does not need as much doing to him as Thatcher did," one advertising executive observed. "She was so shrill and frightening that although the voters in 1979 wanted the Tories, market research at the time showed they thought Jim Callaghan would make a better prime minister."

Those who sandpapered the rough edges of Mrs Thatcher's image maintained a discreet silence

yesterday on what, given the chance, they would do to her successor. There was agreement in other quarters of the industry, however, that Mr Major really ought to do something about his charisma within the next two weeks, before he had to sit down at a conference table in Rome alongside such figures as Francois Mitterrand. Sitting beside Helmut Kohl, however, was regarded as less of an image problem.

What Mr Major has in his favour, the industry thinks, is his background. "Playing the Brixton card was the winner against Heseltine and his country mansion, and Hurd with his Eton millstone, but as the leadership election fades into memory, the boy will have to find something else," another advertising executive said.

Lingering traces of a Brixton twang, it is thought, will not go down with the formidable ladies in the constituency associations

who do not speak at all like that. Some lessons in oratorical style and delivery might be beneficial. Then there is the problem of the suits. "I have met four marketing directors this morning who are the spitting image of Major; would you want a marketing director for prime minister?" another executive said.

Stefano Hatfield of Campaign magazine, the advertising industry's bible, commented: "Major has extraordinary confidence, which you can't knock - except in one area. He has been very diffident about producing his wife and family for photo-calls. We need to see much more of them; he has to realise that he is public property now."

Mr Major was "smart, but altogether too conservatively smart," Mr Hatfield said. Announcing a drop in interest rates, it was agreed, would do a great deal to make up for the suits.

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EC farm payments scheme is open to fraud and abuse

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE system for paying British farmers more than £2 billion a year for unwanted food is open to fraud and abuse, the Commons public accounts committee said yesterday.

The public spending watchdog's investigation into intervention stocks unearthed a record of management failures. The MPs warned the intervention board that inadequate checks could be cloaking undiscovered and detected fraud.

The government, the Euro-

pean court of auditors and the Lords EC committee have also complained in the past that criminals and terrorists could be defrauding the Community.

The cross-party committee of MPs concluded that tighter controls are needed even though Britain's record for reporting frauds involving EC funds was better than some member states'.

The committee reported that the intervention board responsibility for storing food

mountains had completed only seven of the planned twenty-six computer systems. The board's officials admitted that their original plans had been over-optimistic and there had been a failure of management. Computer delays in handling export refunds and levies had cost Britain an extra £5 million in compensation payments.

The MPs added: "We take an extremely serious view of the board's past failure to implement computer systems on time. We consider it essential that the board learn lessons from these past management failures."

The new accounting system had to be introduced on schedule.

The report also questioned the board's handling of debts. By March this year payments of £18 million had been outstanding for more than six months.

Commons committee of public accounts fourth report: *Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce: Management, Accountability and the Prevention of Fraud* (Stationery Office, £5.85).

MPs are 'poorly fed and housed'

By ROGER WOOD

A PICTURE of poorly fed MPs spending their working lives in cramped offices with inadequate facilities was painted yesterday in a House of Commons Commission report into the workings of Westminster.

An enquiry headed by Sir Robin Ibbot, Margaret Thatcher's adviser on efficiency in government, included a Mori poll of MPs on the way services are managed. It also found that the House lacks most of the financial management systems now common throughout the private sector and public service.

Of the MPs who replied to the poll, 58 per cent described the House as a very poor or fairly poor place to work.

The main reasons for complaint are overcrowded or inadequate offices coupled with poor facilities. Catering is the second most frequent cause of complaint.

The report's recommendations include the appointment of a director of finance.

House of Commons Commission: *House of Commons Services* (Stationery Office, £7.15).



Ridley: "danger of increased nationalism"

Single currency 'Europe threat'

By ROBERT MORGAN

THE early creation of a single European currency, far from achieving greater unity, would lead to the breaking-up of Europe and increased nationalism, Nicholas Ridley said last night. The rich countries would become poorer, but the poorer nations would not be better able to compete.

The former trade and industry secretary, speaking at a Commons meeting organised by the Campaign for an Independent Britain, said that Britain could not afford not to opt out of a single currency.

He spoke of the dangers that would arise as attempts were made to equalise salary levels throughout the EC and drew a parallel with events that led to the depression in the Twenties when adherence to the gold standard meant that the pound was overvalued. It was not until Britain came off the gold standard and revalued the currency that the depression was cured.

In a single-currency Europe, he said, governments would neither be able to cut interest rates nor revalue the currency. In those circumstances the only way to help the poorer regions would be by grants.

As had been seen, grants did not work and they cost money. The rich nations that had to pay them would be disadvantaged, but the poor nations would not have their problems solved.

In due course there would be nationalist and separatist movements. Scotland itself wanted to break away from a single currency with Britain. Participants in the Soviet empire's single currency were peeling off.

"The single-currency plan thus has within it the potential for releasing that nationalism, that desire for separation, which the EC was designed to suppress."

Leon Brittan, page 18

World service TV cash rejected

A foreign office minister made clear yesterday that the government will not pay for an international television service put out by the BBC on the lines of its radio World Service.

During Commons questions, Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, urged the government to pay for such a service, said that during his visit to the Gulf and on other travels he was often told that people wanted impartial television.

Mark Lemmon-Boyd, foreign office minister, said that ITN had started a commercial world television news service without public funds. That was the way forward.

Farms to rent

John Gummer, agriculture minister, said a written reply that he is to start consultations in the new year with a view to making more farmland available to rent.

Sewern bill

The bill authorising construction of the second crossing over the Severn estuary between Avon and Gwent was submitted in the Commons.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Agriculture, fisheries and food; prime minister: Development Board for Rural Wales bill, remaining stages. Lords (3): Maintenance Enforcement bill, second reading.

Paisley Tory sets out to dig his own grave

OVERSHADOWED by the Conservative leadership contest, the by-election campaigns in Paisley North and South drew to a close yesterday (Kerry Gill writes).

No one was sorry, least of all the ten candidates who have struggled to retain interest among the electorate.

The Labour party is expected to keep both seats, although with its majorities cut by the Scottish National Party. The nationalists said that a final surge in support yesterday, as was seen in the Govan by-election two years ago, was certain to bring them victory.

John Major's election as Conservative leader is bound to have come too late to do his party's candidates any good. Ewan Macleod, fighting in

Paisley North, spent yesterday digging his own grave by defending the community charge. He said that it was fair and should be retained.

The nationalist candidates, asked what were the main issues, said they were to do with the local Labour council's mismanagement of public money and poor housing. Jim Sillars, nationalist MP for Glasgow, Govan, argued that Mr Major would be as bad a leader for Scottish interests as Margaret Thatcher.

John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, was the best known figure on the hustings yesterday. He concentrated on the Tory leadership. He did not believe that Mr Major had a "cat in hell's chance" of uniting the Conservatives.

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Farms to
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Severn bill
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Parliament
to be opened

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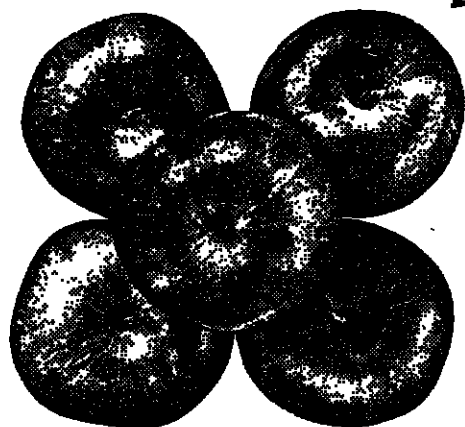
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مركز المثل

Vicar found guilty of adultery told to quit his parish

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICAR was ordered out of his parish in the West Sussex village of Henfield yesterday after he was found guilty of adultery with his curate's wife and a married parishioner.

The Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev Eric Kemp, must now decide whether the Rev Tom Tyler, aged 51, should be unfrocked.

It took a panel of four assessors, two clergy and two laymen from the Chichester diocese, an hour to find Mr Tyler guilty of five allegations of adultery at the end of a seven-day consistory court hearing in Chichester.

The hearing had been told that Mr Tyler had conducted a ten-year affair with his curate's wife, Susan Whitmore, aged 52. After that ended in 1988, he had a short liaison with Barbara Edwards, aged 31, the wife of a friend, who had turned to the church for help after the cot death of her son.

Three of the charges alleged adultery with Mrs Whitmore at the vicarage, at her home and in his car. The two others alleged adultery with Mrs Edwards at her home in Henfield. They formed the basis of an indictment of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders.

Sentence was pronounced by the chancellor of the diocese, Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, who had presided over the hearing. He told Mr

Tyler: "I do not want to add to your humiliation and disgrace with many more words. The shame of the ecclesiastical offences on which the assessors have found you guilty speaks for itself."

"I have listened to what has been said on your behalf, but at the same time you committed adultery with a woman in your care of souls. It is a betrayal of your orders and of those people in your parish who trusted you and who had been placed in your care by the bishop. You and Mrs Whitmore were on an equal footing, but Mrs Edwards was a woman burdened by sorrow. You took advantage of her in a way wholly unworthy of your calling."

"There is only one censure I can pronounce, that you be removed from your preferment at Henfield and be disqualified from any other living unless the Archbishop of Canterbury or your bishop decide otherwise."

All the evidence was heard in camera after the judge ruled that the embarrassment of witnesses speaking in public might prejudice justice. Only counsel's opening and closing speeches and the court's decision were heard in open court.

Mr Tyler, who had vigorously denied the charges, alleging that they arose from a conspiracy organised by Mrs Whitmore after a parish dis-

pute over the sale of land and a picture donated to the church, was visibly shocked by the decision. He left the court hurriedly by a back door with his wife, Tricia, aged 45, without commenting.

He has 28 days in which to appeal to the Court of Arches that sits at Lambeth Palace. It considers only matters of law.

The diocese said that, depending on an appeal, Mr Tyler would be given a short time before having to leave the vicarage. A decision on depriving him of his right to exercise holy orders would be taken in due course.

After the hearing Mrs Whitmore said: "I have always trusted that the truth would prevail; nevertheless, it is a very sad day. I just want to say how deeply sorry I am for my part in it, which has caused so much pain to my family, my friends, my church and the community."

Henfield was Mr Tyler's second parish. He was ordained in 1967 after studying at Wells Theological College. In 1971 he was named to his first parish as vicar at Bexhill in East Sussex.



A man aged 24 is led by police to an appearance before a magistrate in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday charged with the murder of two consultant plastic surgeons at the Pinderfields hospital in the town. Laith

Hashim Alani, unemployed, of Silcoates Park, Wakefield, made a six-minute appearance and was remanded in custody until Tuesday, accused of the murders of Michael Masser and Kenneth Paton at the hospital last

Monday. Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Graham Manchester, for the defence, said that there was no application for bail. David Clark, the magistrate, agreed that Alani should next be produced in court on December 18.

More top women managers needed

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS must change their practices to encourage more women into senior management jobs, a government report said yesterday.

Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister with responsibility for women's issues, said progress had been slow for women trying to reach senior positions. Launching the report, she said that businesses were "beginning to recognise it is possible to gain a competitive edge in the labour market through making more effective use of the female talent available".

The report by the National Economic Development Office and the Royal Institute of Public Administration says that though women make up 45 per cent of the UK labour force, only 27 per cent of managers are female. Only 4 per cent of senior and middle management are women, while among top management the proportion is 1 per cent.

Based on research by the Institute of Manpower Studies, the report says that the number of managers is forecast to rise by 700,000 in the 1990s, and to meet that demand, management must change to encourage women.



The Rev Tom Tyler leaving the consistory court with his wife after hearing the verdict yesterday.

Appeal for Irish divorce law

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING divorce lawyer has appealed to Mary Robinson, the first woman president of Ireland, to speed up the introduction of divorce in Ireland after an important ruling on maintenance orders in the High Court last week.

The case, in which Mrs Robinson was involved as a barrister, led to a ruling by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, that a maintenance order imposed by a court in the Irish Republic was unenforceable in England. This was because the woman referred to as a "spouse", Christine Macaulay, had since been divorced by her husband in England and was no longer a wife. There is no provision for divorce in Ireland.

Miss Macaulay's lawyer, Margaret Bennett, vice-president of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, has written to Mrs Robinson, who was counsel for Miss Macaulay in the case. She says that unless divorce laws are introduced in Ireland, thousands of Irish women whose husbands leave them to live in other jurisdictions will be penalised.

Graduates' job chances beat slump

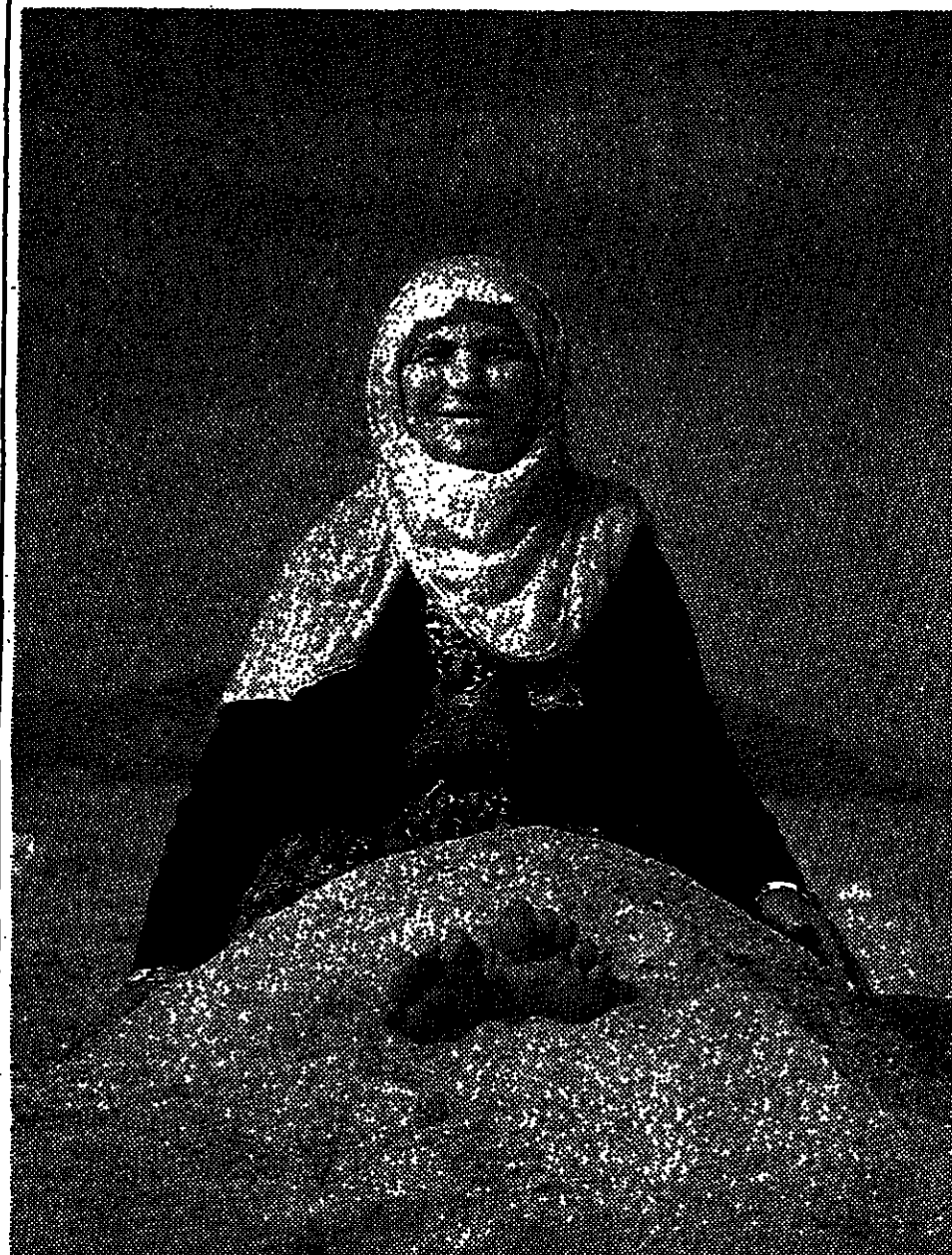
By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYMENT prospects for graduates remain good in spite of the recession, a report published yesterday shows. Increased demand from employers in areas such as law and engineering continues to outpace the growth in student numbers.

The annual analysis of graduate destinations by higher education careers advisers, *What do graduates do?*, shows that overall demand from employers rose steadily throughout the 1980s. The report forecasts long-term improvement in job prospects, but warns that graduates and employers will have to be more flexible.

Demand for engineers and scientists is expected to increase by more than 20 per cent between 1987 and 1995. Growth in openings for other professions is expected to exceed 15 per cent, with the equivalent figure for managers standing at 12 per cent.

About 5 per cent of graduates were still unemployed at the turn of the year, six months after completing a degree, less than half the rate during the recession of the early 1980s.



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Sisters quit home in football club accord

By RONALD FAUX

TWO sisters agreed yesterday to leave their home of 50 years next to Anfield football ground in Liverpool, ending their 12-year battle against eviction.

Miss Norah Mason and her sister Muriel are the sole remaining tenants in Kemlyn Road, a street of terraced houses bought by Liverpool Football Club 12 years ago to make way for a multi-million pound development of the ground.

Two hours of talks in private before a hearing at Liverpool county court settled the dispute. David Geey, counsel for Liverpool FC, told Judge Dennis Clark that by consent there would be a judgment for the club for possession of the property on or before February 28.

Over the years the sisters had turned down offers of alternative accommodation by the club but had refused to move from what remained of the road, which gave its name to a stand at the ground. Mr Geey said the sisters had been concerned throughout to remain in the house.

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TUM03

Blind ignorance of ministers blamed for NCC break-up

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government's action in disbanding the Nature Conservancy Council, its wildlife advisory body, has set back the cause of nature conservation in Britain by up to five years, Sir William Wilkinson, the retiring chairman, said yesterday.

Giving a scathing verdict on the break-up, Sir William said the government's decision to break up the NCC in July 1989, and at Chris Patten, his successor, who had to put the policy into action, although he did not name them directly. He said:

"It is a disgraceful performance from someone in his position. Some senior environment department officials were present and sat grim-faced through the speech. One official said later: 'I don't know if he was saying we were too thin on the ground or too thick in the head, but it was a disgraceful performance from someone in his position.'"

Sir William, a merchant banker aged 58, has been chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council for seven years and is a widely respected, and even revered, figure in the conservation movement.



Wilkinson: tough words for government

Jews' leader accuses DPP of inaction

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE lay leader of Britain's 330,000 Jewish community accused the Director of Public Prosecutions yesterday of "hiding behind the cloak of anonymity" after his refusal to agree to a meeting to discuss a wave of virulent anti-semitic literature.

Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said that Allan Green, QC, had been sent information on up to 20 cases suggesting the origins of pamphlets and leaflets which are inciting a hate campaign.

He criticised the DPP for failing to launch prosecutions on the evidence that has been assembled. Dr Kopelowitz, a JP, said: "I am disappointed. I should have thought he could have discussed this matter. I have made it clear I did not want to talk about particular cases. I wanted to discuss procedures and his thinking. The Jewish community is very concerned about hate literature which incites racial hatred." Mr Green has written

to Dr Kopelowitz, who is also disturbed by the growing number of assaults on Jews and Jewish property, that a meeting could compromise his independence. Mr Green is understood to feel it would be improper to engage in talks because they could pave the way to similar requests from a variety of pressure groups. It is understood that the DPP is advising an approach instead to the Attorney-General, who is the political master of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The rebuff has coincided with the desecration of about 50 tombstones in a Jewish cemetery owned by the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations in England, north London.

The Times has disclosed that 27 serious reported incidents of assault on Jews and Jewish property were investigated by police in Greater London alone in the first six months of this year.

Bernard Levin, page 18

Owners of leasehold flats may win new rights

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

REFORMS to the law on leasehold flats, under which owners would have greater rights to control and manage their properties communally, are proposed by the Lord Chancellor's department today.

The paper suggests legislation for a system of commonhold, similar to the "condominium" or "strata title" schemes in other parts of the world. Such a system, in which the owners share services and facilities and have a system of communal management, would be aimed at giving flat owners a democratic system for jointly running their properties. It would also save time and cut conveyancing costs.

The proposals come at a time of complaints about poor management and excessive service charges, coupled with what the report describes as "ever increasing concern" with the problems that confront leaseholders in selling leases with only a few years left to run. A commonhold is a freehold development of two or more "units" that share services and facilities and are run by a communal management system. The most obvious example is that of a block of flats which, under present law, would be owned on a long-leasehold basis.

The report says, however, that there would be nothing in the commonhold legislation to stop commonholds being set up for non-residential purposes. It suggests the system might equally be adopted for commercial or mixed-use developments. The system could be used for housing or industrial estates, or shopping precincts with flats or offices above. Another use would be agricultural buildings and surrounding farmland.

The report also points out that the commonhold system could be used for new developments, existing buildings being subdivided or organised into an estate, or for blocks already occupied on a long-leasehold basis.

The Lord Chancellor is inviting comments on the proposed draft legislation.

Commonhold: A Consultation Paper (Stationery Office; £18.25)



Michael Page, who was appointed as receiver for Cadogan Court, Chelsea

Property disputes simmer behind elegant facades

The freehold system for flat owners is coming under threat. Lin Jenkins investigates

EDWINA Coven, who has owned a flat in Chelsea for 33 years, saw her elegant mansion block grow shabby and neglected. The paint was left to peel in the common parts, repairs were left undone and neglect started to threaten the structure.

Eventually she and other residents of Cadogan Court were forced to go to court to protect their homes. Their problem was that English law places flat owners in an anomalous position. When blocks of flats were first built in towns and cities the feudal tradition from the countryside of leasehold and freehold was adopted. The result is that flat owners do not own the structure or the land it stands on.

Such a system has come under increasing attack. According to James Banks, co-ordinator of the Commonhold Flats Campaign, it leaves the flat owner with "nothing more than the loan of a cube of air".

Commonhold is the notion of ownership of the freehold of the flat and ownership in common by the flat owners of the freehold of the structure and

land on which it stands, with each leaseholder being a shareholder in the management company. Flat owners would thereby actually own their home rather than simply owning the lease.

At Cadogan Court, after the residents had spent several thousand pounds each on bringing their case, the court decided to appoint a receiver, Michael Page, in place of the freeholder who had neglected the property. His role was purely managerial however, and when the landlord exploited a loophole in planning law to add penthouse flats the leaseholders were powerless to stop him. Mrs Coven believes that commonhold would avoid such problems.

"We would then be in charge and able to do things our way. After all, we live here," Mike Scott, head of the

campaign which has attracted more than 1,000 supporters, cites numerous examples of unhelpful freeholders demanding large sums for lease extensions, charging vast amounts for work not carried out, refusing to do repairs and charging for insurances that were never bought.

"The matter is now being quite widely discussed, but there is still a feeling in some quarters that commonhold can be introduced by some deal between willing leaseholders and willing freeholders," he said.

The Building Societies Association, which spent years examining systems in other countries, also believes that commonhold provides the best solution.

Mr Page believes the main problem lies with the need to change property management. He believes people who buy flats do not want to be in charge of their own destiny. "Most flat owners are incredibly apathetic so I am not sure commonhold is the right approach. But at least the Lord Chancellor's document should get the problem discussed."

Patients 'excluded from talks on health'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE new streamlined health authorities are becoming increasingly secretive following the government's shake-up of the health service, patients' watchdogs say today.

The Association of Community Health Councils claims in a report that consumer representation is being deliberately ignored by many authorities that are now holding their meetings in private.

In a survey, the association found that only a third of districts planned to meet in public on a monthly basis and that one-sixth were to meet less frequently than once every two months. The new authorities, which have been stripped of local government representatives, had their first meetings in September and October.

Only 35 per cent of community health councils were allowed to stay for the private meetings of the new districts.

Toby Harris, the association director, said: "There are fears that public meetings of the new health authorities will be mere rubber-stamping exercises with decisions being made beforehand."

The number of women with the AIDS virus is rising alarmingly, with women twice as likely to be infected through heterosexual sex as men, Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said yesterday. By the end of October, 162 cases of AIDS in women were reported, three times the cumulative figure last year, she said.

Smoking ban

Smoking is to be banned on London's buses from February 14, London Transport announced. Surveys have shown that 73 per cent of London adults want a ban. Only three in 10 using the capital's 5,000 buses are smokers and of them fewer than three in five actually smoke on board. Clive Hodson, London buses managing director, said: "Buses will be cleaner, healthier and safer."

Call to farmers

David Curry, the junior agriculture minister, urged farmers yesterday to find new ways of making money and to revive the cottage industries of their forefathers in order to offset the decline in income from conventional agriculture. He told a conference on arable farming in Peterborough: "Consumers want quality products and variety. Farmers must get in on the act."

Teams saved

Food research teams due to be disbanded under government rationalisation have been saved by the expansion of Bristol University's veterinary school. They are being transferred to the university, which has bought the building on the site of its veterinary school, where the government food research institute was based. The institute was to close.

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Museum's credit card gift plea

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Museum's scheme to solicit donations by credit card got off to a faltering start yesterday when it was launched by Jean Rankine, the deputy director.

Anxious to encourage visitors to give more than the change in their pockets, Britain's oldest public museum has become the world's first to install a credit card machine. Miss Rankine said: "We hope this will intrigue people into giving more."

She then duly slotted in her Access card and tapped in her gift. "It doesn't seem to be working... I didn't press those buttons... but it's only taken a quarter of what I offered," she complained as representatives of the sponsors, Midland Bank and 3C Communications, hurried to her aid.

Christopher Poulton, of 3C, said: "These machines are waterproof, bullet-proof, any kind of proof you like." Miss Rankine muttered: "Not deputy director proof though. Yesterday when we tried it, it multiplied the donation by a fantastic amount."

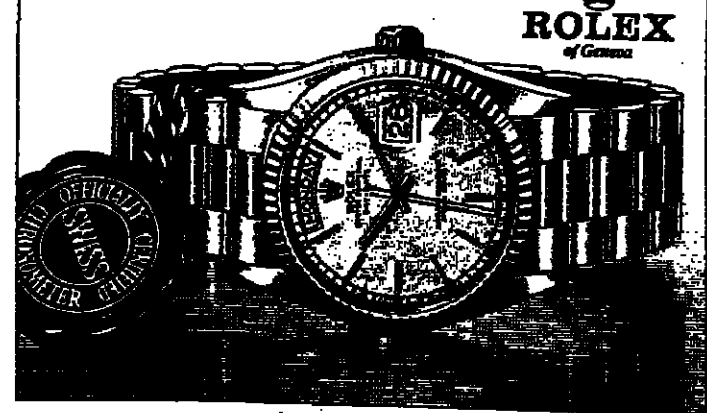
The British Museum gets about £150,000 a year through casual gifts and hopes to treble the figure. A year ago Sir David Wilson, the director, warned the government that the museum faced a £1 million deficit and needed £2.5 million to stave off a financial crisis. It got more than £4 million extra for this year, and another £3.3 million came from the recent arts budget.

The British Museum has steadfastly opposed the notion of admission charges, and Sir David has threatened to resign if he is forced to introduce them.

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Boundary review proposes abolition of Humberside

By PETER DAVENPORT

UNWANTED and still unloved by many of its inhabitants 16 years after its creation, the county of Humberside may be on the way out.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England yesterday recommended that the southern half of the county be returned to Lincolnshire and that the remaining area be renamed East Yorkshire in line with popular demand. The proposals, which would virtually return the region to its position before local government reorganisation in 1974, reverse the commission's view published in an interim report seven months ago that Humberside should remain.

The recommendations prompted widely differing reactions yesterday. Lincolnshire County Council immediately announced a campaign reception; groups campaigning for the restoration of East Yorkshire expressed delight; and Humberside county council said that it was "absolutely astounded". The council forecast thousands of job losses among its workforce of 40,000 if Michael Heseltine,

the new environment secretary, accepts the proposals. The commission said that it had received more than 3,400 letters and 27 petitions since a total of 80,000 signatures since issuing the interim report.

"The vast majority of those responding want the abolition of the county," the commission reports. "They are not willing to accept the idea of a county which the Humberside county and dislike the name Humberside. They stress their continued loyalty to Yorkshire and to Lincolnshire. The commission recognises that opposition to Humberside has hardened."

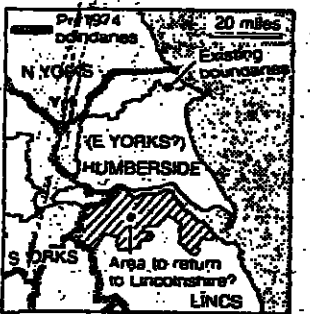
It is proposed that the

four districts south of the Humber — Cleethorpe, Gt. Grimsby, Gt. Lincoln, and Gt. Grimsby — return to Lincolnshire. Those on the north bank — Boothferry, Holderness, Kingston upon Hull, Bridlington and Beverley — would remain as Humberside. The report, however, adds: "The county council itself can change the name of the county to East Yorkshire if that is the wish of the people."

Comments on the proposals must be submitted by the end of January, when the final report will go to the minister.

Trevor Pearson, chairman of the East Yorkshire Action Group, which has pressed for the abolition of Humberside, yesterday said: "This is the happiest day of my life."

The proposals were greeted with dismay at the Humberside county council headquarters, however. Officials said commission members had earlier accepted that the county should remain because it was created to promote economic development. "Now they have caved in to emotional arguments and public opinion," a spokesman said.



Straight from the wild

A SHAFT of sunlight on the face of an inquisitive fox cub provided Wendy Shatill with an award-winning opportunity as she staked out the animal's suburban den.

Ms Shatill (left) photographed the scene while observing nine cubs near her home in the United States. The photograph (above) earned her the title of British Gas Wildlife Photographer of the Year and a trophy, which was presented to her at the Natural History Museum yesterday by the broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. An exhibition of winning pictures is at the museum until January 31.

Standard of hotels 'too low'

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH hotel management is of a shamefully low standard, the hotel and restaurant critic Egon Ronay says in the 33rd edition of his *Hotels and Restaurants Guide* published today.

Hotels are as good as their managers but "too many of them do not know how to direct or, above all, how to motivate staff", Mr Ronay says. He asks how many sleep in their hotel's bedrooms to uncover hidden faults, and suggests that few have enough knowledge of food.

Andrew Eliel, editor of the 1991 guide, says that the number of letters received containing copies of complaints to major hotels has increased sharply. "Not a single group has escaped the criticism of our readers, whose almost universal conclusion is that they have had rotten value for their money."

The guide recommends 2,500 establishments, all inspected anonymously. The seven restaurants given three stars are Chez Nico, La Tante Claire, Le Gavroche and Harvey's in London, the Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire; Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons in Oxfordshire; and L'Ortolan at Sunfield, Berkshire. L'Ortolan is restaurant of the year, and Longueville Manor, Jersey, hotel of the year.

Teacher-training controversy

Denim-clad left under attack

Who will teach the teachers and how should they acquire classroom skill? David Tytler reports

ANNIS Garfield has a classics degree from Cambridge, has been an O and A-level examiner for 13 years, taught in private schools and would appear to be an ideal candidate to return to teaching.

Mrs Garfield will tell a conference on teacher training today that she has been rejected by several colleges and universities and will blame the "unintentional" but "deliberate" "lefties" blinded by their own prejudices. "My first mistake," she said, "was to brush my hair and wear a sober dress. The correct thing would have been fashionably weird hair and denim."

The conference has been called by the Centre for Policy Studies, the right-wing think tank, which earlier this year demanded that all graduate teachers should be trained on the job and that university education departments closed.

Sheila Lawlor, the deputy director, said graduates should go straight into schools as trainee teachers for a year in either primary or secondary schools while the bachelor of education degree should be scrapped.

Dr Lawlor and her supporters claim that teacher-training courses are too concerned with sociology, the philosophy of teaching and equal rights. They also fail to turn out teachers with a good grasp of their subject and with adequate classroom skills.

The teacher trainers dispute Dr Lawlor's claim that there would be an immediate increase in teachers as apprentice teachers would actually be teaching. "It deters good graduate

specialists from entering the profession and it undermines the subject specialism of those who do."

Sir William Taylor, chairman of the government-appointed Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (CATE) and vice-chancellor of Hull university, said that Dr Lawlor was out of date; that the training institutions "are legally bound to cover subjects such as equal opportunities, and that there is nothing to suggest that if education departments were closed there would be a flood of applicants wanting to enter the classroom."

Sir William, who will join the debate with Dr Lawlor and Mrs Garfield, said that he believed the BEd courses, now designed principally for primary teachers, attracted young people, particularly women, into higher education who would otherwise be lost to it; certainly they would be lost to education.

Mrs Garfield's views are not popular with Alan McClelland, the soberly dressed professor of education at Hull. "I have no objection to informed criticism based on specific evidence but it is often just one person giving a view which is not typical."

Professor McClelland accepted that teachers had lost their way in the Sixties and Seventies but he said that was now being put right with the introduction of the national curriculum.

He also thought more could be done to improve the classroom skills of teachers by giving the new teacher more support with in-service training, which he believes is often inadequate.

Firemen's cash plea

West Yorkshire fire chiefs are threatening to close five fire stations and lose nearly 500 jobs unless they receive more cash. A delegation from the county's fire and civil defence authority will tell Robert Key, the junior environment minister, today that the government's spending assessment of £44 million is nearly £9 million less than the amount needed for a stand-still budget. A spokesman said that even a 12½ per cent rise in spending would be insufficient and mean the loss of 70 jobs and one station.

Libel damages

Linda Melvern, a journalist, has accepted undisclosed libel damages over an article in *GO* magazine that she was dismissed by *The Sunday Times* during a purge of "overly political elements and managers".

Trying again

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, and Per Einarsson, the Swedish balloonist, will again try to cross the Pacific in a hot air balloon next month.

Home recovery

Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Tory prime minister, was said to be in a satisfactory condition at a hospital in Winchester, Hampshire, yesterday, after suffering a stroke.

No privacy

The doors of a £10,000 computer-controlled public lavatory, opened in Worcester last week, have jammed open.

Men charged

Tony Downer, of Catford, and Dennis Arif, of East Dulwich, both in southeast London, were remanded in custody by magistrates at Reigate, Surrey, charged with attempted robbery of a Securicor van near Reigate on Tuesday.

Drinking death

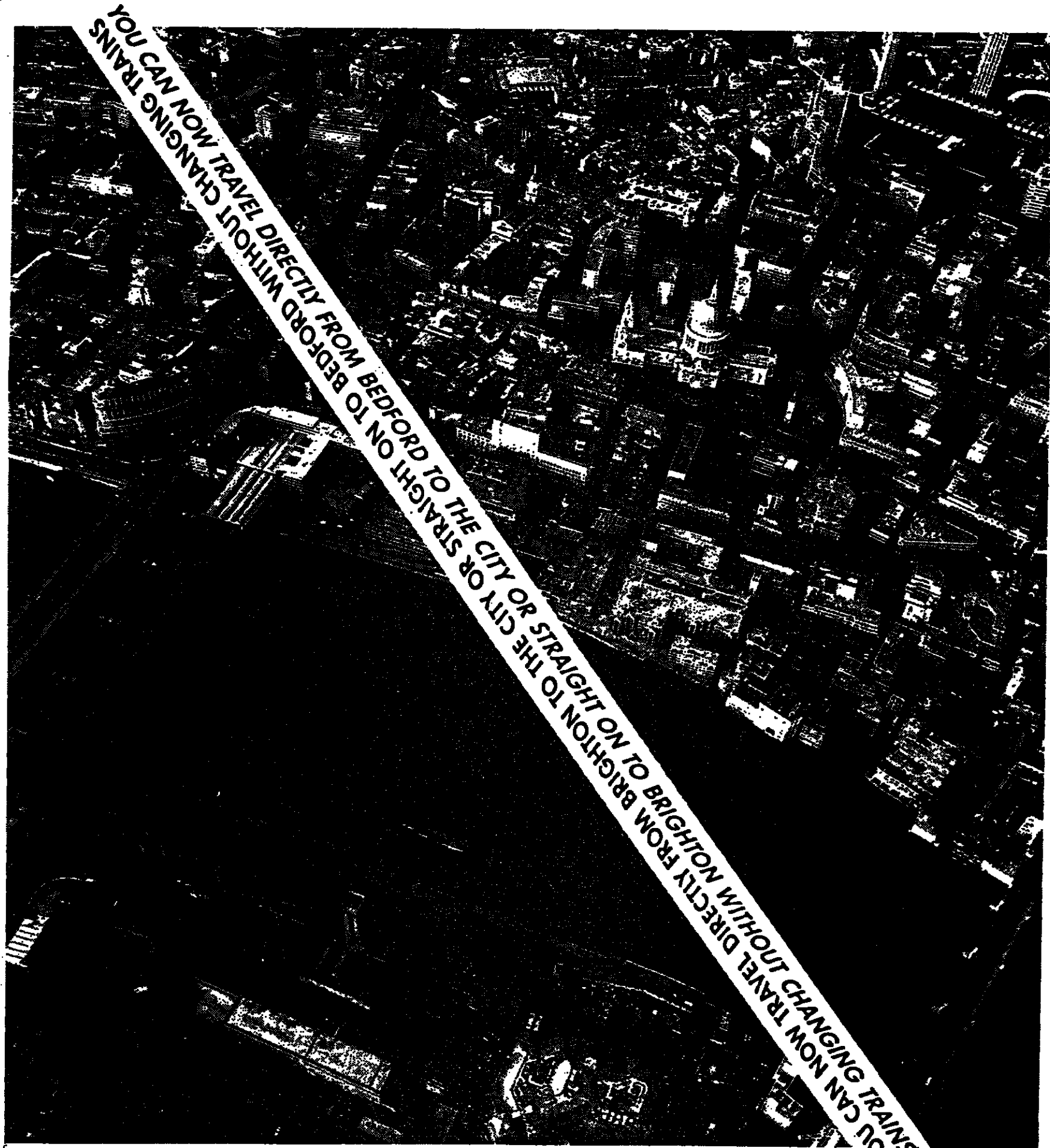
Wendy Whyte, aged 17, was found dead in an illegal drinking club in Portsmouth, Southampton, yesterday. The police said: "It appears she drank herself to death."

No confidence

Cornwall county council has passed a vote of no confidence in the committee set up to study the Camelford water poisoning incident.

Fish killed

More than 3,500 fish were found dead in the river Clywedog, Clwyd, where traces of cyanide were found.



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Shamir may offer Gaza deal to ease Palestinian issue

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

WITH pressure mounting on Israel to defuse the Palestinian issue because of the Gulf confrontation, Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, is considering new Middle East peace proposals, including plans for a possible "phased" or "gradual" disengagement from the occupied Gaza Strip, according to government sources.

Israeli newspapers said that, if the plan was approved by senior figures in the Likud party, Mr Shamir would discuss it with President Bush when he visits Washington in 10 days' time — the first meeting between Mr Bush and the Israeli leader for nearly a year.

Mr Shamir could also review Middle East peace prospects with the new British government in London en route to the United States on December 6, giving John Major his first taste of the intricacies of Middle East politics.

Diplomats said America is keen for Israel not only to keep a low profile as war looms in the Gulf in January, but also to rob President Saddam Hussein of his trump

card by taking steps towards a resolution of the Palestinian question.

President Saddam has repeatedly presented himself as the champion of the Palestinian cause. Diplomats suspect that, if he is in danger of defeat or is forced to withdraw from Kuwait, he would either attack Israel in revenge or at the very least insist that a settlement must include an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Israel is disturbed by the priority the United States is giving to its new Arab allies against Iraq, especially Syria, which many Israelis regard as responsible for recently concerted Arab attacks on Israeli's "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Haaretz said yesterday that one American fear was that Israel, not content with waiting along the border to be attacked, would launch a ground and air push northwards into Lebanon, giving President Saddam a propaganda boost. But the newspaper *Al Hamishmar* said the growing number of armed attacks on Israel's borders,

from Egypt and Jordan to Lebanon, were a further source of pressure on Israel to take the steam out of the Palestinian issue.

Day after day Israeli papers have carried harrowing pictures of relatives at gravesides, mourning dead Israeli servicemen. Israeli army officers say the infiltration attempts, which have cost 12 Israeli lives in two weeks, amount to a new "war of attrition", with extremist organisations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habbash, operating from Jordan and Lebanon to open up "a second front of the intifada".

The basis of Israeli policy remains the peace plan presented by Mr Shamir to Mr Bush in April 1989 and approved by the "national unity" coalition the following month. This provides for the election of Palestinian representatives to negotiate "transitional self-rule".

But the coalition, and the Shamir plan, collapsed earlier this year over the status of Jerusalem and the PLO's possible involvement in talks.



Desert rain: An Egyptian commando guard near his country's flag under the first downpour of the two-month rainy season in the northern Saudi Arabian desert. Arab commanders were happy with the damp weather. Rain is unlikely where US and British troops are deployed

Benn tells Iraq of better chance for Gulf peace

From NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

DURING three hours of talks at the presidential palace with Tony Benn, the visiting Labour MP, President Saddam Hussein and senior members of his cabinet referred repeatedly to Mrs Thatcher's resignation and discussed its possible implications for the Gulf confrontation.

The Iraqi leader appeared to be taking some encouragement from Britain's change in leadership.

Speaking to reporters later, Mr Benn said that he told President Saddam that Mrs Thatcher's departure offered new opportunities and that John Major would not be enthusiastic about beginning his period of office with a war.

The Iraqi leader promised that some British hostages

would be freed as a result of Mr Benn's mission. The number allowed to leave should indicate whether President Saddam had decided to embark on a new approach to Britain.

Mr Benn urged the Iraqi leader to make some gesture of reconciliation ahead of today's foreign ministers' debate in the United Nations Security Council to discuss the American-sponsored resolution opening the way for military action against Iraq. In particular, Mr Benn advised President Saddam to free all foreign hostages and argued that their continued detention served the interest of Washington and London more than Baghdad.

He cited what he called the "disgraceful" neglect of the British hostages by the government as evidence that they were more valuable to Britain as a pretext for launching an offensive against Iraq than as a deterrent against attack.

"He asked about the leadership," said Mr Benn, who is expected back in Britain on Friday. "I said I thought Mrs Thatcher did not like foreigners."

The Labour MP said he told the Iraqi leader that "Mr Major, as a former chancellor, would know the cost of war" and added that public opinion would in future have greater influence on government decision-making because of turmoil in British politics ahead of a general election.

Mr Major remains a largely unknown quantity in Baghdad, but senior Iraqi officials are convinced that Mrs Thatcher's departure will have robbed President Bush of a key ally. The little Iraq has been told about Mr Major depicts him as young and inexperienced in foreign policy matters.

In a report from its London correspondent, the official *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper yesterday dwelt on the fact that Mr Major is the youngest prime minister since Lord Rosebery and emphasised his humble origins.

In Iraq, where strength and ruthlessness are the qualities respected in politics, Mr Major was described as "very quiet and patient", although it was also said that he could become "very brutal" if provoked.

On a personal level, the new prime minister was described as "angry and fond of women". The paper reported that Mr Major was a poor pupil at school, had once failed to get a job as a bus conductor, and that he joined the Young Conservatives because he wanted to meet girls.

James Schlesinger, former CIA director and defence secretary, said the timing was "no accident". He said: "We heard relatively little about the urgency of the nuclear threat during the first 16 weeks of the crisis." Leonard Spector, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, believed nothing had changed. "We're really looking at a sort of resurgence of an appreciation of what was there before in an effort to build this into a bit more of a political factor."

Saddam expected to release more Britons

Nuclear warning sounded

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN intelligence believes President Saddam Hussein could conceivably build an extremely crude nuclear device of questionable reliability within six months, according to a report here yesterday, but authoritative sources said they believed it would probably be too weak to be militarily significant.

With senior Democrats stepping up their demands that sanctions be given more time to work, the report will fuel a growing controversy over the administration's new emphasis on the imminence of Iraq's nuclear threat, which some independent experts believe has been exaggerated for political purposes.

President Bush, the defence secretary, Richard Cheney, and the National Security Adviser, Brent Scowcroft, have suddenly begun to emphasise that threat, saying that Iraq could have a primitive nuclear weapon far sooner than expected.

To measure Iraq's timetable in years risked "seriously underestimating... the gravity of the threat", Mr Bush said in Saudi Arabia last week. Relying on sanctions for another year meant "we could face an Iraq armed with nuclear weapons", said Mr Scowcroft on Sunday.

Independent experts have accused the administration of exaggerating the danger to boost domestic support for military action, pointing out that the administration's new tone was preceded by two opinion polls showing elimination of Iraq's nuclear potential was the one cause for which the public considered war justified.

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Gorbachev cancels Nobel trip to tackle problems at home

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's cancellation of his trip to Oslo to pick up the Nobel peace prize will convey to Western capitals more effectively than anything else the gravity of the economic and political situation in the Soviet Union.

The announcement was made yesterday shortly before a senior German official disclosed plans to transport large quantities of food to the Soviet Union.

Increasingly, Mr Gorbachev has given precedence in his domestic timetable to meetings that promise the Soviet Union economic assistance. Yesterday he received Helmut Kohl's chief adviser, Horst Telschik, who is heading a German delegation to discuss the provision of food.

Many Germans praise Mr Gorbachev for contributing to the unification of Germany and have encouraged both government-sponsored and private Western efforts to help an impoverished Soviet Union out of its present difficulties.

Herr Telschik told a press conference that his delegation been given an undertaking by the Soviet Union that customs and visa formalities for German aid consignments would be minimised. Everything possible would be done, he said, to accomplish deliveries "unbureaucratically and fast".

He told an audience of sceptical journalists that a group of ten German ministries and 15 Soviet ministries would co-ordinate the aid effort, and he hoped thereby to ensure top-level co-operation on the Soviet side.

Declining to give details of his conversation with Mr Gorbachev, saying that it was "confidential", Herr Telschik said Mr Gorbachev had described the next six months as critical and promised that German aid deliveries would start at once. He quoted figures of between \$15 billion (£7 billion) and \$20 billion for the amount of aid the Soviet Union thought it would need.

Members of Herr Telschik's delegation said the Soviet side had accepted that German aid officials should accompany consignments through the Soviet Union to their destination and be permitted to observe distribution. Concern has been expressed in the Soviet Union and abroad that food will rapidly find its way on to the black market or simply be left undelivered because of the inefficient and corrupt Soviet distribution network.

An insight into precisely these problems was given yesterday by Yuri Luzhkov, chairman of the Moscow city council's executive committee, who disclosed that the Soviet capital was currently receiving only 60 per cent of its usual milk supplies and was facing an acute shortage of baby food and semolina. He said that Moscow's meat stocks were sufficient for only three to five days if deliveries were stopped.

Mr Luzhkov blamed rural areas around Moscow and other republics of the Soviet Union for subjecting the capital to what amounted to an economic blockade. Giving specific examples, he said that onions — one of the few plentiful vegetables in the Soviet Union — had been delivered regularly from the Central Asian republics until "one fine day" first Uzbekistan, then Kazakhstan and other areas simply halted supplies.

He said that the Russian Federation should reverse its earlier decision and obey a central directive that freed prices for specified non-essentials. Russia's insistence that sales of such goods should be temporarily suspended, he said, meant that no one in Moscow had been able to buy a wedding ring for nearly two weeks and that depots were also running out of space to store furniture which they were not allowed to sell until the pricing confusion was cleared up.

Mr Luzhkov claimed that Russia was losing in the provision of scarce goods because producers were preferring to sign contracts with republics where prices had already been freed.

At the same time, he insisted that there was no need to panic. Moscow, he said, had sufficient quantities of most basic foodstuffs to see it through the winter; the empty shop shelves were largely a result of panic buying and black marketing.



Quota queue: a Ukrainian woman hands over ration tickets for her quota of eggs in Odessa as others wait in line. Ukrainians receive 70 per cent of their salary in ration form, a measure Moscow is to adopt next month

Defensive Soviet army under fire

FROM BRUCE CLARKE IN MOSCOW

WITHIN hours of the Soviet army announcing new measures to defend its position, a parliamentary enquiry into the sudden deployment near Moscow of thousands of crack paratroops in the autumn has cast doubt on the defence ministry's explanation.

The troops' dispatch set off a wave of rumours about a military coup in September and prompted accusations that the military had been withholding information. The enquiry's findings were reported by the Communist youth daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which went on sarcastically to attack official prevarication over the troop movements and allege that they could have ended in tragedy. Publication of the

investigators' main conclusions came one day after an unprecedented grave warning from Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister, that the army would not tolerate further threats to its prestige or its control of military installations and nuclear weapons.

Both the parliamentary investigators and the newspaper acknowledged that the temporary transfer of elite units to the Moscow region during the run-up to a pro-democracy demonstration on September 16 had not amounted to preparation for a military coup. But the parliamentary committee questioned the plausibility of the defence ministry's account, which said the troops were either rehearsing for the November 7 Red Square parade or helping with the potato harvest.

The ministry's version was not supported by checks of rehearsal arrangements and of the numbers involved in the potato-picking, the enquiry found. *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, which has adopted an astonishingly radical line for an official organ, asked why the troops had a full supply of ammunition when no exercises involving live fire were envisaged. It said the investigators had come across documents with forged dates and evidence that the manoeuvres had been brought forward at the last minute.

Violent incidents involving soldiers and demonstrators in Lithuania had shown that conscripts' nerves were stretched to the limit, the paper argued. The dispatch to Moscow of thousands of inexperienced youths with heavy ammunition, at a time of seething political tension, could have had tragic results.

Marshal Yazov, in an unscheduled address in the middle of state television news on Tuesday night, spoke out against armed attacks on military installations and rumours that the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal might be divided up among the 15 republics. He insisted on the army's right to deploy its forces wherever they were needed in the Soviet Union and said the destruction of monuments to distinguished officers would be banned.

Moi in scathing attack on BBC

Nairobi — President Moi yesterday accused foreign journalists, particularly the BBC, of constantly provoking the Kenyan government. He told a rally in Kakamega district that even Kenyan newspapers had joined the foreign press in efforts to destroy the country.

He challenged the BBC to say why they no longer reported on neighbouring Uganda. "But here, where there is peace and stability, foreign journalists would report that there is war in Kenya," President Moi said.

Even when a donkey was removed from a Lamu street, the BBC reported that the government had arrested a donkey, he said in reference to a Kenya news agency report from the Indian Ocean holiday resort recently that was picked up by most of the foreign press. The BBC was reporting nothing, but provocation on Kenya, he said. (AFP)

Ready for talks

Bangkok — Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, has agreed to visit Paris for possible talks with the other warring factions of Cambodia. Mr Samphan told resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk that he was accepting the prince's invitation to the talks to examine the unresolved issues to end the nearly 12-year-old civil war. (AP)

Visit to atoll

Papeete, Tahiti — Members of Greenpeace, who docked here, may visit France's nuclear test site at Mururoa atoll, French high commissioner Jean Montpezat said. But he did not say if their vessel, the Rainbow Warrior II, would be allowed to take water samples to check for possible environmental damage caused by the nuclear tests. (Reuters)

New Tass chief

Moscow — Lev Spiridonov, first deputy editor-in-chief of *Pravda*, the Communist Party newspaper, has been named as head of Tass news agency. Mr Spiridonov, aged 59, replaces Leonid Kravchenko, who has been appointed chief of the television and radio service.

Tape ban lifted

Miami — A federal judge lifted his ban against Cable News Network's broadcast of the former Panamanian leader, Manuel Noriega's taped telephone conversations that had sparked a fierce constitutional debate. The ban had pitted the right of free speech against Noriega's constitutional right to a fair trial. (AP)

Singer arrested

Los Angeles — The pop singer, Rob Pilatus, of the disgraced duo, Milli Vanilli, was arrested for investigation of a sexual battery allegation, police said. Mr Pilatus, aged 26, was arrested after an allegation by a woman aged 25. Authorities declined to provide any other details. Mr Pilatus was freed on \$10,000 bail. (AFP)

North Sea fish face extinction

By MICHAEL BANYON IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSEY

UNLESS four out of every ten fishing boats in the European Community are scrapped, there will soon be no cod, haddock or other species left to fish in the North Sea, and very few fish in other EC waters either.

That was the stark warning given yesterday by Manuel Marín, the fisheries commissioner, who said the present quota system was not working. Countries were abusing their quotas, not policing their fishing fleets, not monitoring the catches and the nets used, and not stopping the building of boats.

"Some stocks have been virtually wiped out. Others are on the borderline," Señor Marín said. Things were especially grim in the North Sea, where species faced extinction, including cod, haddock, plaice and herring, as the mortality rate was four times higher than the maximum to maintain a balance. A report by independent experts found that mortality rates are too high for more than 90 per cent of the main species in the North Atlantic.

The commission is therefore proposing a radical overhaul of the common fisheries policy, starting in 1992. Señor Marín said the only answer was to cut the number of EC fishing boats by an average of 40 per cent, with almost all vessels catching the most endangered species taken off the seas.

This would devastate the fishing industry, and bring special hardship to Britain, as

English and Scottish vessels fish the species most at risk. To compensate them, Señor Marín proposed using EC regional funds to co-finance the short-term lay-off of vessels and job re-training.

He said the immediate task was to improve the surveillance of fishing vessels. This could be done by using satellites to track them and an integrated computer vessel location network.

He denied that satellite surveillance would be a "spy in the cab," saying one main use would be to prevent accidents and help safety. But he made it clear that Brussels wants each country to keep a closer watch on how many vessels are in its waters.

Señor Marín admitted the savage cut in fishing fleets would be unpopular, and very difficult politically for fishing ministers to enforce, but there was no other way. "It is irreversible and inevitable."

He called for an immediate two-year ban on the fishing of all dwindling species, use of nets with a minimum 120 mm mesh which would allow all but the biggest fish to escape, and a permanent ban on all fishing during the breeding season so that the fish would reproduce.

The EC is eating more and more fish as health concerns have forced dietary changes. It is now the world's biggest fish importer. Señor Marín said EC fleets would not be allowed to ravage international waters, however, where a quarter of all community catches are now made.

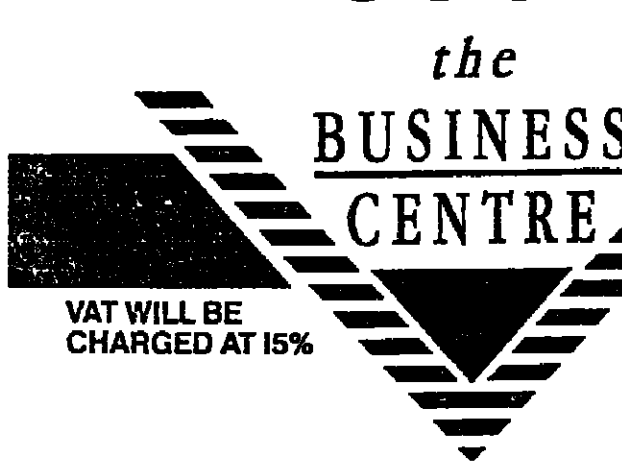
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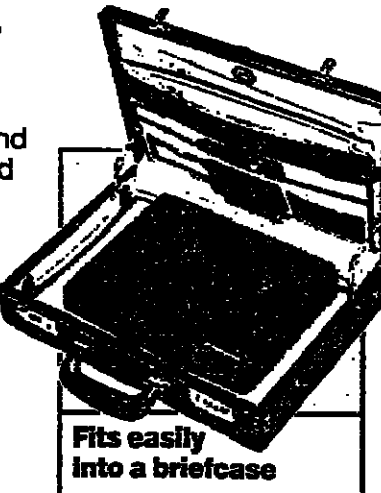
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Walesa's backers attach communist label to Tyminski

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE campaign team of Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, yesterday tried to brand his rival for the presidency as a Trojan horse for discontented communists. Jaroslaw Kaczynski, head of the Centre Alliance, said the candidate Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman, was becoming a focus for displaced communists who wanted to derail Solidarity.

"The faces around Tyminski are the faces of the old system," Mr Kaczynski told reporters. "The genuine threat to democracy in Poland comes from the remnants of communism, and it is in precisely these waters that Tyminski is fishing."

Wider claims could be heard in Mr Walesa's campaign headquarters. Some of the Solidarity leader's most important campaign managers are saying Mr Tyminski has Soviet backing.

Mr Tyminski has dismissed such charges as "lies, lies, lies". Mr Kaczynski supported his claims of Mr Tyminski's crypto-communism by pointing to his economic programme which opposes privatisation and supports a largely state-owned economy. "His idea of reform is to keep the state-owned enterprises and simply pay the workers more," Poles do not know what Mr Tyminski stands for and the source of his support

is rather obscure. He gained 23 per cent of the vote, pushing Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, out of the race and forcing his resignation.

His praise on Tuesday for President Jaruzelski and implicit approval of the 1981 decision to declare martial law has strengthened the hand of the Walesa loyalists.

Meanwhile, there is considerable bargaining behind the scenes as both candidates try to soak up the votes of the losing contenders. Mr Walesa has telephoned Mr Mazowiecki and a tactical alliance has been formed to block Mr Tyminski and ensure that the Solidarity candidate wins on December 9.

Mr Walesa says the present government line-up, with a few personnel and policy adjustments, could stay in place under his presidency until the general elections in spring. Although Mr Mazowiecki dislikes the patronising tone, and although he is determined to resign, he is ready to accept this temporary pact.

The prime minister will formally submit his resignation to parliament today and the chamber is expected to reject the proposal, keeping him in place until a detailed understanding is reached between him and Mr Walesa. Mr Mazowiecki, who has called a meeting of his election

committees from throughout the country on Sunday, wants to build up a party that will fight in the spring elections for his basic ideas.

A cabinet session yesterday studied the 1991 budget proposals drawn up by Dr Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister, and it became clear that the present government will resist any attempts to make financial policy more interventionist. Mr Walesa said yesterday: "The market economy policy started by Balcerowicz will really be continued." But there would have to be "corrections", especially in tackling unemployment. It is these "corrections" that worry the Mazowiecki team.

Plainly, the split in Solidarity can be papered over but cannot be healed. "We draw on fundamentally different constituencies," Mr Kaczynski admitted yesterday. The Mazowiecki team, he said, should admit it was in the wrong.

Tactically, the two camps could work together to defeat Mr Tyminski, philosophically, they were as far apart as ever.



Flower power: demonstrating students pacify Bulgarian riot police with smiles and flowers after scuffles during yesterday's protest in Sofia

Lukanov will step aside for 'caretaker' regime

FROM REUTER IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S embattled prime minister, Andrei Lukanov, called for a caretaker government yesterday as the official news agency BTA said that he was about to resign.

Mr Lukanov told reporters that talks were under way between his Socialist Party and other political

forces for a caretaker administration to take over. "I personally support the foundation of a caretaker government," he said.

"The political forces today started talks to reach this clever compromise... There are not yet talks about the composition of the government, but I hope it will happen very soon because the present situation should not

continue." The meeting took place amid growing support for a general strike launched on Monday by the independent trade union Podkrepa to force Mr Lukanov out. About 25,000 demonstrators gathered in central Sofia, in spite of huge police security. A policeman was injured and two students arrested in scuffles with demonstrators at a bridge in the

capital, but generally the demonstrations were peaceful.

BTA said an agreement was "almost ready" to create a cabinet under a prime minister who was neither a Socialist nor a member of the main opposition party. Mr Lukanov, aged 52, said on Tuesday that he intended to push through tough policies to pull Bulgaria out of economic crisis

Kohl heads for triumph under banner of unity

FROM IAN MURRAY IN FRANKFURT

LONG before he arrived in the exhibition centre here, it was easy to see why Helmut Kohl can expect to remain chancellor after Sunday's election.

The thousands thronging to support him do not regard him as a politician touting for votes, but as the historic figure who turned the impossible dream of German unity into reality. To vote against him would be to vote against the fatherland they all love.

Herr Kohl may represent the centre-right Christian Democratic Union, but the emphasis at present is on the word "unity". Moreover, when unity has created a new-found pride in a German identity, the chancellor has succeeded in embodying a basic "German-ness" which is proving a vote-winner.

With his stolid ways and deliberately slow-witted image, he strikes a chord which his Social Democrat challenger, Oskar Lafontaine, for all his quicksilver tongue,

cannot match. Herr Kohl's huge figure exudes confident respectability alongside his diminutive, floral-tied challenger. Where the socialist is known for his refined palate, the chancellor makes no secret of his liking for sauerbraten, the Rhineland peasant's favourite dish.

Herr Lafontaine, who was nearly killed by a deranged attacker six months ago, slips onto the platform almost unnoticed, earning his rapturous applause later through his oratory.

Herr Kohl, however, makes royal progress into the hall. The audience knows he is coming by the inevitable brass band, which strikes up a triumphant march. He surges ahead, blinking happily in the glare of the television spotlights. The crowd leans towards him, clapping and stamping their feet. A few have their hand squeezed in his huge grasp as he presses onwards to the platform.

He will have given the speech that follows 28 times by Sunday and he knows it without a text, although he adapts parts of it to local concerns. He tries to begin with a fresh joke as a happy prelude to the exhortation to hard work and sacrifice.

Understandably, the chancellor makes much of the fact that Sunday's vote will be the first time since 1932 that all Germans can vote freely for their government. But he makes no mention of the Gulf or of his promise to amend the constitution to allow German troops to serve under the UN.

Herr Kohl then gets down to the task of destroying the opposition. Loyalty to the Nato Herr Lafontaine despised, he says, had meant that the government had achieved more peace with fewer weapons. To thunderous applause, he boasts: "Germans no longer have enemies."

As to socialist complaints about the high cost of unification, he asks: "What does it cost for all Germans to live together in freedom?" He goes on: "What did it cost to keep Germany separated?", listing the expense of subsidising Berlin and the inner German border, paying for spies and the cost of spreading disinformation.

The chancellor's main message is that there is a lot of hard work ahead. It is an unappetising election pledge of toil, sweat and even some tears ahead. But there is the promise of "peace and not blood" in compensation.

As the red, gold and black German tricolour waves on the giant television screen at the end of the hall, Herr Kohl's admirers rise proudly to their feet and sing to Haydn's music: "Für das deutsche Vaterland." The national anthem has become the victory march of the Christian Democrats.

● BONN: The German interior minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, paralysed from the waist down after being shot twice by an apparently unbalanced man in October, attended his first cabinet meeting since the attack.



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Sometimes the motive is to extract information about the resistance and the

whereabouts of hidden Westerners, former Kuwaiti police, or food. But more often the reason is simply mindless brutality.

Saddam Hussein's total lack of respect for human life and rights means that these occurrences have become a part of everyday life in Kuwait.

Well over four thousand men, women and children have now been killed, many tortured to death, and countless thousands more have been injured, maimed or gone missing.

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WINDY

Troops called out in Dhaka as crowds defy Ershad curfew

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THE army was called out to impose order in Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital, yesterday after crowds defied a curfew and attacked police in protest at a state of emergency declared on Tuesday.

The government has suspended all basic rights and imposed press censorship. President Ershad, addressing the nation on radio and television, said emergency rule was designed to save the country and economy from rampant violence and destructive politics.

Opposition parties have been waging a fierce campaign for the past six weeks to bring down the Ershad administration, resulting in large numbers of deaths and injuries. Troops in lorries and jeeps

patrolled Dhaka yesterday. Crowds angry at the arrest of leading opposition figures blocked roads, stoned police, and erected barricades against troops who opened fire in two areas of Dhaka, injuring at least three people, witnesses said.

At one point a mob of 3,000 turned on a group of 30 riot police with sticks, knives and iron rods. Police fired tear gas, but retreated without resorting to gunfire. Clashes were reported in several areas of the capital despite the curfew, which kept most of the population of seven million off the streets.

No newspapers appeared yesterday because journalists went on indefinite strikes. Tuesday in protest at censor-

ship. Hasina Wazed, leader of the opposition Awami League, is under house arrest after calling on people to defy the emergency and take to the streets "to protest against the repressive law by the illegal autocratic regime". Another opposition leader, Khulida Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist party, demanded the removal of President Ershad, who was out to plunge the country into civil war.

Most senior opposition figures went underground, where they issued calls for a general strike. President Ershad said he had no alternative but to impose the emergency because of a "trend of arson and destruction".

Students from Dhaka University and Dhaka Medical College headed many of the street protests yesterday. Witnesses said the entire university campus and its adjacent areas were a virtual battlefield between supporters of the ruling Jatiya party and the mainstream opposition, with frequent exchanges of gunfire.

This is the third emergency declared since President Ershad, then a general, took power in a bloodless coup in 1982, and the fourth since Bangladesh became an independent country in 1971. President Ershad is planning to stand for re-election in a poll expected in May.

The three principal opposition alliances, which have not taken part in any elections since 1986, arguing that free and fair elections are impossible under President Ershad's rule, renewed their anti-government campaign on October 10. They are demanding President Ershad's resignation and then parliamentary elections and then parliamentary elections under a neutral, caretaker government.

The state of emergency bans political activity and protests. It also forbids the sending of news by post, radio, telegram, telix, telephone or facsimile machines. It suspends the right to file proceedings in court for the enforcement of any fundamental rights.

In Delhi, it was reported that all contact with Dhaka was abruptly cut off in mid-afternoon. Calcutta airport said all flights to and from the city had been cancelled.

The emergency came into force after a day of exceptional violence between security forces and opposition supporters in which at least 100 people were injured. The towns of Chittagong and Khulna were also placed under curfew yesterday. All educational institutions have been closed for a month.

Delhi imposes its rule on Assam

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian government yesterday imposed direct rule over the state of Assam, whose huge tea plantations have become a virtual war zone in years of fierce conflict involving Indian and international tea companies.

Immediately after the announcement, Indian security forces mounted operations in areas under the control of the extremist United Liberation Front of Assam. Police and border security forces are being doubled to more than 6,000 men and the army has been placed on standby.

It is the third Indian state to come under direct rule, after Kashmir and Punjab. The move means that state-wide elections due next month will not be held. The government declared the entire region a disturbed area and banned the front, which is demanding a separate homeland called Asom. The state assembly has been suspended.

Assam has become synonymous with one of the most brutal terror campaigns in India. In recent weeks international tea companies have pulled out of the state, saying it has become impossible to function.

The separatists have long harassed the tea industry, frequently demanding huge amounts of protection money which the Indian Tea Association insists have never been paid. But it is widely believed that many tea gardens have been buying peace for years.



Chandra Shekhar: action to beat separatists

Peking strong-arm squads equipped for shock tactics

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

IN THE dimness of the police supply shop, electricity crackles and blue sparks fly. A group of young men, some in leather jackets, none in uniform, are trying out electric cattle prods, jabbing at the counter as they might at a "counter-revolutionary" or a "hooligan", or a foreign journalist.

The anonymous young men compare the relative ferocity of the prods, which look like ordinary rubber truncheons except for a thin metallic band that winds down their length and ends in two protruding metal prongs between which the current dances at the flick of a switch.

This shop is a window on a wide array of equipment available to China's security forces as they go about their task of controlling the masses, many of whom see them as bullies, inefficient, and more than a little corrupt.

The electric cattle prods are made in China and retail at between £10 and £20. They range anywhere between the modest 6in and the threatening 3ft versions. They are a common sight around Peking, carried by private security guards as well as by police. Also on sale here are riot shields, bullet-proof waistcoats in military camouflage

or in a smart grey tweed, hand grenades, a document shredder and imported portable radios.

A natty infra-red light guarantees that you can keep watch on people at night. If you need to watch your back, you can buy glasses which at the far edge of each lens have a mirror.

Ordinary mortals, foreigners included, are only allowed to purchase certain articles, like mirror glasses. The hand grenades and electric cattle prods are only for those who can produce a certificate stating that they work for one of the private or public security agencies.

According to a new directive, selling police insignia and uniforms is also restricted, because there are too many people around pretending to be police. In one city, a survey found that many people wearing police uniforms were not policemen. A number of offenders said that they wore the uniforms to make life easier for themselves; this way nobody would dare to hassle them, and would instead be obsequiously polite.

Others admitted that wearing the uniform was an excellent way to make money, standing by the road and arbitrarily imposing fines.

For the past week or so, Peking police have been out in force at night, stopping cars to check identity cards in an attempt to re-arrest escaped prisoners. They are also trying to catch a murderer who has, according to Peking residents, claimed the lives of three young women in the past two weeks and who has chopped up their bodies, distributing packages around the city.

The growth in violent crime horrifies many Chinese, who remember the good old days when the propaganda that China was crime-free was almost true. So when the police set out to catch a murderer, for once they have the support of the people.

Nevertheless, during such periods of tightened security many people prefer to stay at home rather than being hassled about why they are out late at night. Before the Asian Games, a Chinese driver for the American embassy was shot dead when he failed to stop at a roadblock one night.

A newspaper recently praised the Peking police for their untiring work during the Asian Games. Their superiors commended 4,500 officers for putting off their weddings during the two-week period, and 6,000 officers for continuing to work despite illness.



Transfer of power: Singapore's new prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, right, who signifies a gentler era, with the outgoing prime minister of 31 years, Lee Kuan Yew, after they were sworn into the new government yesterday

Boat people refuse return to Hanoi

From PAUL MOONEY IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's repatriation programme has run into trouble as three quarters of a group of 111 boat people scheduled to return to Vietnam backed out in the days before their departure. The refusal forced the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to cancel the flight yesterday, less than 24 hours before the group was due to fly off.

Robert Van Leeuwen, UNHCR's head in Hong Kong, did not say how many people from the group were still willing

to return to Vietnam, but he confirmed that they would now leave for Hanoi on Saturday with an unspecified number of boat people returning under a separate voluntary programme.

Many Vietnamese within the camps are suspicious that the new scheme is just a new name for mandatory repatriation. Mr Van Leeuwen said that the decision by the Vietnamese not to return proved that force was not being used.

It is believed that the Vietnamese changed their minds after rumours began being spread among the refugees that returning boat people were being mis-

treated. Refugee workers have confirmed that pamphlets are circulating in the camps warning the refugees that those who returned would be tortured and possibly even killed.

Earlier this month, a high court judge ordered the release of another group of 111 Vietnamese boat people held in detention in Hong Kong for 18 months, on the ground that the government had detained the group illegally.

Last week nine boat people who had been refused refugee status won a high court judicial review, arguing that the screening process was flawed.

Ceasefire signed by Liberians

Bamako, Mali — The three belligerents in the Liberian civil war, including Charles Taylor, the rebel leader, signed a ceasefire accord here.

The pact was also signed by a representative of Prince Johnson's breakaway independent force and by Major Wilmot Diggs, representing the forces loyal to Samuel Doe, the late president. (AFP)

IRA trial date

Amsterdam — The trial of three suspected IRA members accused of murdering two Australian tourists in May will begin on February 20. The prosecution hopes Donna McGuire will be extradited from Belgium to stand trial at the same time. (Reuters)

Aids charge

Sydney — Robbers using syringes filled with Aids-infected blood as weapons face up to 25 years in jail in New South Wales. Reacting to a series of syringe attacks, the state government said it would introduce the legislation this week. (Reuters)

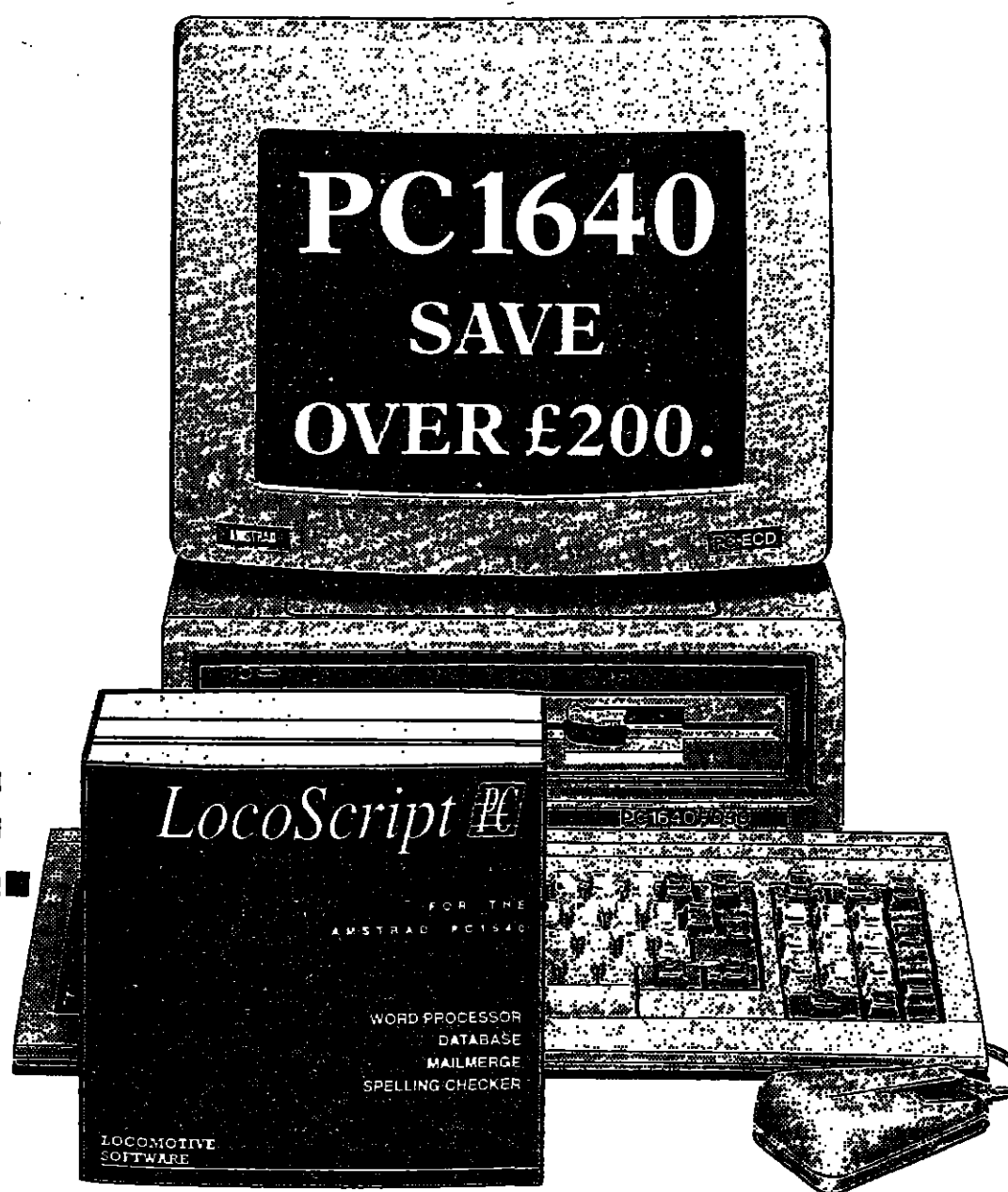
Student Rambo

Brussels — A schoolboy aged 12, dubbed "Rambo in shorts", threatened classmates with a revolver stolen from his father. Police said the boy forced his fellows against a wall with the loaded gun before being disarmed by a teacher. (Reuters)

Jagger 'a Hindu'

Jakarta — A priest who conducted the secret wedding of rock star Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall on the island of Bali last week said the couple had converted to Hinduism. Ida Pedanda Sukawati said that they had signed a letter stating their commitment at the ceremony. (Reuters)

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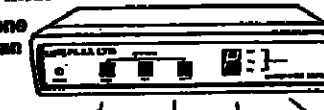
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Is that liberty's light ahead?

Mary Ann Sieghart

Imagine being stuck for days in a cave, deep in a pothole. Chipping at the wall offers little hope of escape. The cave becomes stiffer and more claustrophobic. The wall shows no sign of giving way. Suddenly, lo! a hole has been made; and beyond it is another cave, brimming with oxygen, and with a chink of daylight. That is the reaction of a natural liberal faced with a new Tory leader. After 11½ years of government by a natural liberal, there is now, at last, the chance of change. Social liberalism is not incompatible with conservatism; indeed it should complement economic liberalism. Yet under Mrs Thatcher, it was not allowed to.

That made voting Tory impossible. How could someone who believes in maximising individual freedom vote for a party that insisted on granite-bunker secrecy, the undermining of local democracy, and the restraint of freedom of expression? Only through council-house sales and parent power in schools did the Thatcher government give any power back to the citizen.

Thus the initial success of the SDP was due as much to a reaction against the Conservatives under Mrs Thatcher as to the leftward move of Labour. Some SDP supporters now vote Liberal Democrat; many have switched to Labour; but they support the free market, and might be persuaded to move back to the Tories if John Major were to harness a new social liberalism to his economic liberalism.

The most useful piece of clothing he could steal from the centre party is constitutional reform. If he believes in individual freedom, he should also want human rights and civil liberties for all citizens. Britain signed the European Convention on Human Rights in 1950, yet still does not grant British citizens its protection in domestic law. Redress can only be sought, after many years and much expense, in Strasbourg. The Convention should become Britain's bill of rights.

Next, Mr Major should bring subsidiarity to Britain: that is, to allow decisions to be taken at the lowest possible level by the people affected, giving them maximum control over their lives. British government is grotesquely centralised, and thus paternalistic. If people want to vote locally for a party that will levy a high poll tax, let them. Give local government more power and autonomy. Central government should set standards, but delegate administration to those whose lives are affected. Proposals floated by Mr Heseltine for elected mayors and local referendums are a start.

Then Mr Major should back proportional representation. The first-past-the-post system rewards parties with patchy support, and punishes those that appeal to all

types of people. Classlessness is what John Major wants — yet the more classless the party, the fewer seats it wins.

Next, he should commit himself to the reform of government and Parliament. British government is unacceptably fortress-like. The recent Official Secrets Act forbids civil servants to breach confidentiality even in the public interest. The 30-year rule makes it hard for governments to learn from past mistakes. Only through parliamentary questions and select committees, both of which are easily dodged, is there even a semblance of accountability.

Mrs Thatcher's government made narrowly political, issues that ought to be free from politics. By appointing people in her own image to public bodies, she has ensured that they would be replaced by Labour appointees, so destroying the precious tradition of politically independent appointments. She published white papers without preceding consultative documents, so stifling informed discussion of policy. And she used the lobby system to vent her spleen anonymously upon her own ministers. All this can and should be changed.

So too should the workings of Parliament. The House of Lords is undemocratic and personifies the class system. Members of Parliament have very little power to amend legislation. The hours they work may suit male barristers, but they are a great deterrent to women with children.

A socially liberal government would do its best to weed out discrimination based on sex, race or age. It would lead by example: promoting women to the cabinet, allowing flexible retirement in the civil service, denouncing racism. American experience shows that one of the best ways of reducing discrimination in jobs is for the public sector to insist that all its contractors have a workforce reflecting the racial composition of the area. There is now a fair employment law in Northern Ireland to protect Catholics. The same could be done for blacks here.

Mr Major should share his shoulders when his colleagues complain of bias on the BBC. He should advise viewers to switch channels if they object to sexy programmes. He should proclaim the merits of an unfettered press.

Nobody would expect him to adopt all of these measures. But none is incompatible with his personal principles, and enacting some would begin to attract liberals back to the Tory party. If he were a true libertarian, of course, he would decriminalise illegal drugs. He would disestablish the Church of England and abolish the law of blasphemy. He could even lower the age of consent for homosexuals. But this, of a Conservative, might be too much to ask.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

When she was 11, my younger daughter told me she just could not imagine ever giving up *Bunty*... "I mean where could one read about more amazingly interesting people than the *Four Marys*?" I thought about this, had to agree she was probably right about the *Marys*, but opined that she was likely to move on to more serious literature as she grew older. I was wrong. She will be 29 in January and still reads *Bunty*.

I'm pretty sure it was *Bunty* influence that made her decide to go on "the adventure". Last Saturday Emma and her friend Helen flew to Guatemala for a month. Just like that, Guatemala sounded exciting and they have had five Spanish lessons. We met for lunch on the day before departure. She ordered caviar, asked whether I was worried about her. I said not, unless she ordered a lot more caviar. She said: "I mean worried about me going to Guatemala; did you know there's dense jungle in Guatemala?" She explained she wanted to leave her book to science, her money to Comic Relief. I am to get her espresso coffee machine. We kissed. She said: "Now you're worried." I denied it.

It was all those years in the House of Commons that made me ring Douglas Hurd's secretary later that afternoon, ask for the name of the occupant of the Central American desk at the Foreign Office and discuss with this man tourist safety in Guatemala. He said the city was pretty safe, was not sure about the jungle. He gave me the names of our ambassador and minister, explaining that the embassy was of only modest size, and the 13-digit telephone number. The fathers of the *Four Marys* in *Bunty* would have done no less; one of them is in the House of Lords and another, altogether more modest socially, was "the bravest corporal in the last world war".

My British Telecom code-book states that Guatemala is a Band 10 country: self-dialled calls cost £1.37 per minute at peak time, £1.17 at night. Throwing fiscal caution to the wind I dialled Guatemala City. A foreign voice answered; it was a disappointment for I had rather expected H.E. to reply

personally. I asked for the first secretary; she asked who I was. I told her, adding "from London". She said "hold on" and plugged me onto Muzak. It was "Home on the Range" in moderate tempo. Oh give me a home where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play; where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy or grey. Home, home on the range...

I looked at my watch; one and a half minutes had elapsed. For the money I could have bought a bottle of rich, soft Bulgarian country wine, or availed myself of five minutes' conversation on an 0898 number with an unattended Swedish model who is into bondage and adventures in *Sunday Sport*. Why does our embassy play "Home on the Range"? What's wrong with "Greensleeves" or the Band of the Grenadier Guards playing a selection of marches? Might there have been a memo, perhaps when John Major was briefly foreign secretary, instructing our diplomats to take telephone Muzak from *The Great American Country*. *Hill Country*. *Lefty Frizzell* and *Jim Beck's* "If You've Got the Money I've Got the Time" or Ted Daffan's "I'm a Fool to Care". Both are more apposite, while "Turkey in the Straw" is topical.

By now we were on verse two of "Home on the Range". Oh give me a place where there's plenty of space where the city folk never would dwell; where bison run free on the open prairie and the wolves and coyotes as well... Four and a bit minutes into the call, back on the chorus and the foreign-speaking operator still away looking for her official — or possibly having elevenes. £5 for listening to "Home on the Range" was enough. I replaced the receiver.

I had been determined not to worry about my daughter's adventure. Nice safe country, Guatemala: most of the chicle from which the world's chewing gum is produced comes from there. But for my call to the embassy I would not have known about the wolves and coyotes, nor the bison. Why could not she have gone to Bogor Regis or Skeggs like other *Bunty* characters?

Leon Brittan believes we could join the slow track of a two-speed Community

How Major can heal the Europe rift

Europe was the cause, or at least the catalyst, of the traumatic events of the past month. Can John Major reunite the Conservative party on this issue? Or are the divisions too deep? I think they are not.

There will always be a few people who regret that we ever joined the Community, and a few who will go along with any nonsense put forward in the name of European unity. But most Conservatives take a more pragmatic view. They would agree that making a success of our relationship with our EC partners is crucial to our economic and political future, and that the best way of maximising our influence is by showing our partners that we share their basic objectives, even if we sometimes want to achieve them by a different route and at a different pace.

Britain has already put forward its ideas for economic and monetary union, in the shape of Mr Major's hard en plan. That plan involves the setting up of a supranational body, the European monetary fund, which will issue hard euros, and by setting euro interest rates, have increasing control over our monetary policy. Not only could the plan lead to a single currency, if it is at all

successful, it is likely to do so, and very possibly more quickly than the Delors plan. Once this is clearly recognised, there is therefore no vast ideological gulf between the two plans. They are different ways of reaching the same objective.

But does not that objective involve giving up a crucial aspect of our sovereignty? For a pragmatic party this is a strangely ideological argument. There is only one purpose in the exercise of sovereignty: to have the greatest possible influence over our future. In a world where our interests are at the mercy of the Bundesbank, we should be aware of mistaking the legal shell of sovereignty for the reality of genuine control over our destiny. We would have more control over monetary policy if the Bank of England played a significant role in a European central bank than if we have to follow the decisions of the Bundesbank without any say in their formulation. And if our partners go ahead without us, as they certainly will if necessary, we would have even less effective control over our monetary policy in the shadow of a European central bank.

Most voters are scarcely worried about governments continuing to have the power to fix interest

rates, but they would be concerned if they could no longer shop using the familiar pounds and pence, with the Queen's head on notes and coins. But as has so often been pointed out, there is absolutely no need to change that. All that would be required would be for our notes and coins to have a sterling value on one side, and the ecu equivalent on the other.

If our partners are not persuaded of the merits of the hard ecu plan, and if public opinion will not go along with our partners' decision to follow the alternative route to EMU, there is still a way forward. It is to say to our partners that we will work constructively on the plans they are evolving, and will not stand in the way of their agreeing to start the next stage in 1994, but we are not ready at present to commit ourselves and would like to decide much nearer the time. In other words, we will not seek to impose a veto on them, provided they do not rush us into a decision. I have little doubt that our partners would regard that as an entirely reasonable compromise.

What, though, of the conference starting next month on political changes in the Community? Conservatives need have no fear that this will lead to a headlong

rush towards a federal Europe. For all the brave talk in some quarters, there is not the slightest chance of that happening. At most, the European Parliament's powers will be slightly increased. There is no question of any substantial enhancement of the role of the Commission. At this conference Britain could achieve changes which would do much to allay the anxiety that the Community is inexorably assuming more and more power. For the Commission has itself proposed that the principle of "subsidiarity" should be enshrined in the Treaty. This would ensure that decisions were taken at Community level only when they could not better be left to the member states themselves. If that principle were firmly enshrined in the Treaty, the Community could take on new tasks, such as monetary policy, when really necessary. Equally, there could well be occasions when what has been done by the Community in the past would be handed back to the member states.

The conference also provides an opportunity for injecting into the Community a new influence: that of the national parliaments, acting collectively through a new body comprising representatives of those parliaments. This body, as sug-

gested by the Commission, would be kept in close touch with Community legislation, and doubtless express its views on whether what is proposed really needs to be done at Community level.

But perhaps the most important role of this conference should be to prepare the Community for a development that is at the forefront of Conservative thinking on Europe: the entry into the Community of other European countries who are ready and able to accept the obligations that membership involves. For it is difficult enough to get legislation through in a Community of 12. It is time to start planning the changes needed for a Community of 18 or 20 to retain its dynamism.

There is, therefore, ample scope for a Conservative government to play a forward-looking and constructive role in the current debates about the future of the Community, without in any way compromising our national interests or national identity. Indeed, if Mr Major adopts such an approach, with patience and sensitivity, he will unite the great mass of the party and do a service both to this country and to the Community as a whole.

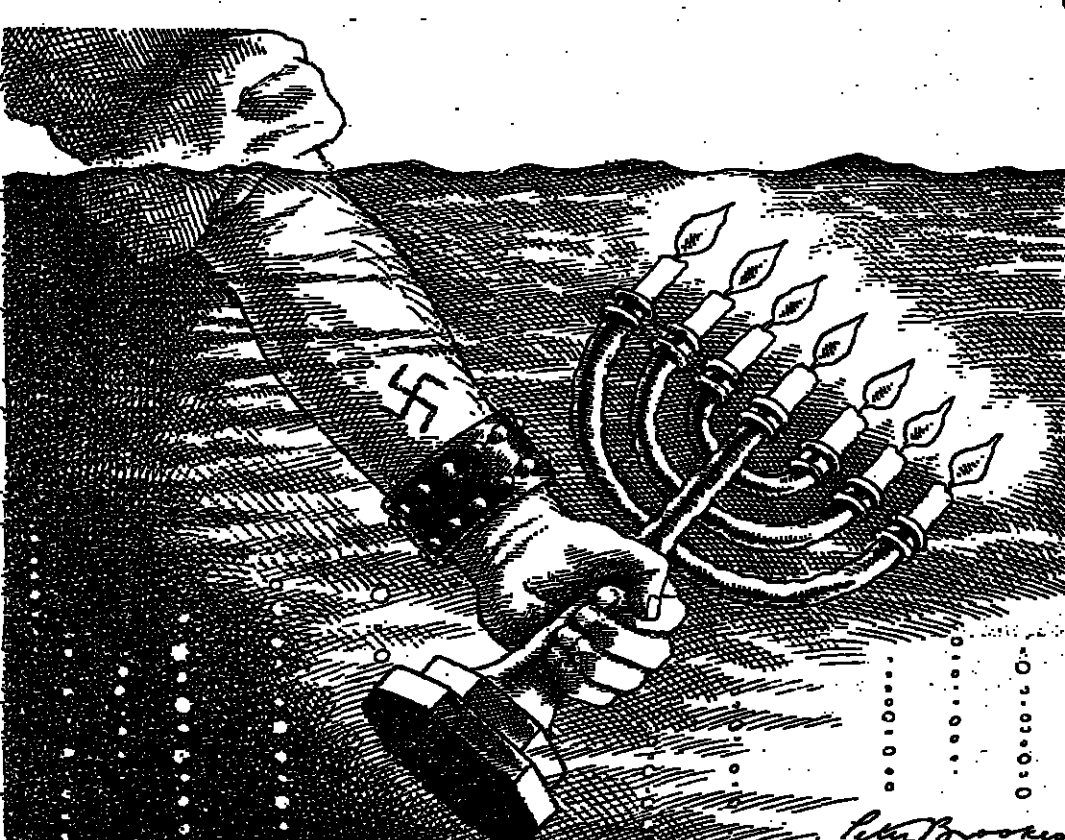
Sir Leon Brittan is vice-president of the European Commission.

Shameful signs, but the dark age will not descend again

A group of MPs has just urged prosecution of those who circulate scurrilous anti-Semitic leaflets and the like, the official policy at present being that such things are better ignored. (Well, if you thought anti-Semitism had vanished, you must be of a very sanguine disposition; that tap has not stopped dripping.) But a new argument has arisen among Jews themselves as to whether there is real danger.

In Britain there has of late been a substantial rise in physical attacks on Jews, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries (swastikas have been daubed on headstones) and the circulation of the matter of the MP's are concerned about, including truly lunatic claims that the Holocaust never happened. In addition, it was inevitable that the appalling events in Israel would blur for some the definition boundary between Jews and the Jewish state. (Indeed, the more implacably fanatical of the Israel-haters must have welcomed the Temple Mount killings, offering as they did an opportunity to damage Israel seriously, and thus speed the day when it is expelled from the map.)

Jews in Britain have since divided sharply; one voice argues for calm, insisting that however unpleasant these manifestations, they pose no general threat. The Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, inclines to this view, but it is fiercely rejected by other Jews, who do not think of all funny things as Jewish jokes, which runs like this: Two Jews are sentenced to death, and are to be shot. The officer in charge is about to give the order to fire, when one of the condemned men calls out "I want a blindfold." "Hush," says the other, "don't make trouble." The Jews of Europe made no trouble, and died in their millions. In any discussion of anti-Semitism it is impossible to make any sense of the pros and cons unless the stupendous fact of the Holocaust is kept prominently in mind. Over the centuries, many races, religions, beliefs, nationalities, groups of all kinds, have been persecuted, sometimes with frightful slaughter, but in all the recorded history of the world, there has been nothing like the Jewish Holocaust. I know of British-born Jews — sophisticated,



Although anti-Semitism may survive, Bernard Levin sees no grounds for Jewish fears of a new Holocaust

intelligent, well-read, stable, with no history of being persecuted or even insulted, and without the trauma of relatives killed in the Final Solution — who genuinely think there is a real possibility of something far more terrible. It is no use arguing with such a conviction, for such inner torment is not subject to the tests of reason. So when a Jewish shop-window is smashed by a drunken skinhead with half his head painted orange and the other half purple, such people take it as a harbinger of something far more terrible. I am an entirely assimilated Jew, taking very little interest in Jewish life or customs, though naturally grateful for my Jewish blood and what it has given me; moreover, I have spent my working life in a profession quite exceptionally free of anti-Semi-

tism, and my personal life in circles where I have almost never encountered it even tangentially. The report is inevitable: "It's all right for you." So it is. But I am convinced, and not by hunch but by evidence, that it is all right for others, too. Here I must renege. Just after the end of World War Two, Oswald Mosley, gathering together the wretched remnants of his British Union of Fascists, had tested the temper of the country briefly with a view to re-starting his anti-Semitic programme, but found no response; he then tried colour-prejudice, but failed like a miser, and after a time took himself off to France and lived there till he died. Young as I was, I never thought there would be any recrudescence of any kind of fascism, and much less can I believe now that it could re-appear in any substantial form.

I accept part of the counter-argument, or at least acknowledge it. The pattern has recently widened; in liberated Eastern Europe, strange things have crawled into the light from the subterranean fissures revealed by the new world. Gorbachev was wise to move quickly in staging the show-trial of Konstantin Ostashev, leader of an anti-Semitic group, though he said his followers were of little consequence. Tsarist Russia was implacably anti-Semitic (if it had not been, my grandparents would never have trekked here across the steppes, and look what you would have missed), and so world, and the universe itself. That dreadful truth alone means that anyone who speaks casually or lightly, let alone approvingly, of anti-Semitism is a fool, if not a scoundrel. But the Jewish Dark Ages will not come again.

voice among the hungry, homeless and unemployed ready to blame their plight on the Jews.

Nevertheless we must distinguish between anti-Semitism as a feeling, held deeply and persistently or occasionally and fleetingly, and a doctrine that demands action to fulfil it. I am not much given to insisting on perspectives, but here we must hang on to one, or we shall end up thinking that the knock at the door signals a pogrom rather than a postman. Obviously, I can see a distinction between one who feels hostility towards Jews and one who beats up a Jew. But I go further — some will say dangerously further. I would put both the hostility and the punch into one scale, and only an outbreak of real Jewish discrimination or persecution in the other.

If you — Jew or Gentile — reject such an attitude as unpardonably complacent, I reply that what, at bottom, you are seeking is the abolition of hostile feelings towards Jews. It is very likely that a few-hundred-year history created a forcing-house of Jewish talent and achievement, but unless you think it would be a pity if that ceased to be true I imagine that you would wish to see the end of anti-Semitism. So would I, but if your definition of it remains mere dislike of Jews, I do assure you that demands for the abolition of anti-Semitism to be completed by the end of the week after next will not only cause disappointment when it does not come about, but will weaken the vigilance necessary to combat the unpleasant but insignificant manifestations we have lately seen.

The manifestations in the East will need closer inspection, and they may turn into something very sinister, but even those do not persuade me that a new *Nacht und Nebel* is brewing for the Jews beyond the pale, let alone this side of it. The Holocaust indelibly stained Germany, the rest of the world, and the universe itself. That dreadful truth alone means that anyone who speaks casually or lightly, let alone approvingly, of anti-Semitism is a fool, if not a scoundrel. But the Jewish Dark Ages will not come again.

Another stage in the family story

Publishers and authors hoping to produce instant biographies of John Major and his family are likely to be pipped at the post — by the prime minister's elder brother, Terry.

For the past 18 months, at his home in Wallington, Surrey, Terry Major has been researching the lives of their parents, the vaudeville entertainers Tom and Gwen-dolyn.

With the help of the British Music Hall Society, he has trawled through old music hall programmes, call sheets and magazines. He even advertised in *The Stage* appealing for information. Despite the paucity of documents, Terry Major has discovered that his father was an expert swimmer and once a member of the Walsall water polo team. He was also a wrestler, stage comic and producer of two revues. Mrs Major was no less colourful. Terry has discovered that at the age of 50, she was still capable of performing that most athletic of stage dance movements, the running splits. Max Tyler, official historian of the British Music Hall Society, says: "Terry Major has been working very hard on the project but I don't know if there is enough for a full biography yet. We have offered all the help we can and now that John is prime minister it can only mean that more and more people will come forward with information."

The British Music Hall Society has meanwhile placed itself at the

head of the queue of those seeking Downing Street's imprimatur. "We want Mr Major to be our patron," says the society's chairman, Jack Seaton. "He's the first prime minister with a music hall background and it would be a great boost for us were he to accept." Discreetly, the society is also hoping that having one of the sons of "Major and Drum" at the head of government will improve the chances of the Arts Council responding positively to its application for a substantial grant.

Observing the strictest constitutional proprieties, Mrs Thatcher was still prime minister at the Shaftesbury Theatre throughout Tuesday night. Only during yesterday's matinee performance, after John Major had visited the Palace, did Ray Cooney, author and director of the political farce *Out of Order*, change all "Maggie" references in the script to "Young Johnny".

Beep, beep, busy line

Michael Heseltine's well-oiled campaign engine finally came off the rails just before the final vote was announced. Keith Hampson, one of Heseltine's campaign managers, ran from committee room 14, where the votes had just been counted, to telephone the result to his boss at his Belgrave home. With Lance Price of the BBC close on his tail, Hampson sought the privacy of a nearby lavatory and locked the door to impart the bad news via his mobile telephone. Price, hoping to scoop his ITN

rivals by a few seconds, stood outside the lavatory and refused to budge until Hampson had spoken. Suddenly the door flew open. "My Vodafone won't work in there," Hampson groaned. "I can't get a signal." He ran out and looked for a standard Western-minister telephone that did not have a considerable queue. By the time he got through on Heseltine's hot line, the announcement had already been made on television and the world knew that John Major had come out on top.

Spreading the field

Yorkshire county cricket club's decision to change its qualification rules is, in its way, almost as dramatic an ending of an era as Mrs Thatcher's going. No longer will a place in the Yorkshire team depend on being born within the county. No more will team cricketing types obliged to live elsewhere rush their pregnant wives over the county boundary to ensure that junior is eligible to wear the white rose on his cap. One such intent that his son

might one day play for the team of Hirst and Rhodes, Hutton and Sutcliffe was the broadcaster and author Michael Parkinson. His wife Mary says: "I was teaching in Manchester when I was pregnant with our eldest son, Andrew. I was ready to go into a lovely NHS hospital when I was whisked over the Pennines to Wakefield, and installed in a private nursing home for six weeks. It cost a fortune. At the time I thought the whole thing ridiculous. I had never even heard of Freddie Trueman and wondered what sort of a family I had married into."

It was, alas, an unnecessary expense. Andrew is doing well in sport, but from the pressbox for satellite television. Even more expensive was the flight home of a mother-to-be from Bermuda, only to give birth to a daughter.

Another important player of recent weeks, Sir Geoffrey Howe, was present to collect his award for the speech of the year — the one that started the whole thing off — while Paddy Ashdown was declared party leader of the year. Hardly a great achievement, as he pointed out. At the start of 1990 there were five party leaders; now only two remain in post.

Tony Benn, absent in Baghdad, was declared backbencher of the year and Clare Short the year's most tenacious campaigner.

Brian Wilson, winner of the "member to watch" award, remarked that Major saw off the competition "because he was the member no one was watching".

Best reflection of the week on the first Tory leader in modern times to have left school at 16: "I could have imagined the Tory party changing so much as to hold it against a man that he went to Eton... but not that he went to university." The originator? Believed to be Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEFINING POST-THATCHERISM

The back-seat driver — if Margaret Thatcher ever pondered the role — has been thrown from the car at the first turn. The return of Michael Heseltine to the environment department is the most exciting of John Major's cabinet appointments, both for its policy implications and for its signal that Mrs Thatcher is leaving her successor to be his own man.

Mr Major's cabinet is of nobody's design but his own. In choosing Norman Lamont as Chancellor of the Exchequer, high in Whitehall cunning but low in presentational skill, he has indicated that he intends to keep a personal hold on economic policy. In keeping Douglas Hurd and Tom King in place, he has wisely delegated foreign affairs and defence to those with great experience at a crucial time.

He has sent Mrs Thatcher's trusty home secretary, David Waddington, to the Lords, and her trusty chief whip, Tim Renton, off to the arts. He will keep his troops in line with Richard Ryder as Chief Whip. And with Chris Patten as party chairman, he has shown that middle-of-the-road Toryism is to be the guiding principle of the coming election campaign. Whatever else this cabinet may be, Thatcherite it is not.

As Mr Heseltine's presence proves. Most attention is being given to his intentions for the poll tax. All those now concerned with it — prime minister, chancellor, environment secretary and party chairman — have privately declared it to be a terrible mistake. Mr Patten has come to the view that it should be replaced with some version of the rating system, possibly with a capitation supplement. The famous Treasury "secret alternative" to the tax, mentioned recently by Nigel Lawson, is for a form of property value rating. During the leadership campaign, Mr Heseltine was all over the shop on the subject, but will not be idle in seeking reform.

As *The Times* has often suggested, the best way forward is for the cabinet immediately to depoliticise the reform of local taxation. Expert opinion, the Opposition and leading members of the government accept that a return to property value as the basis for local revenue is now inevitable. The important task is to find the most sensible, and the quickest, route back. More significant in the longer term is the impact Mr Heseltine can make on the environ-

ment of Britain in the widest sense. He is a man of vigour and imagination. In the cities, the Thatcherite philosophy of *laissez faire* was tested to destruction, and largely failed the test. The public/private sector partnership underpinning the revival of American cities has hardly been applied in Britain. The emasculation of local leadership by the government's crass treatment of local councils was one cause. Another was the government's inept attempts to reform local finance.

In Mr Heseltine's hands lies the revival of British constitutional devolution. As long as councils are treated as naturally irresponsible agencies of central bureaucracy, the local elected politicians will not feel the commitment and accountability that are crucial to urban revival. They will simply blame the pain of post-industrial reconstruction on national government — as they have done for a decade. Correcting this evil by stabilising local finance, reforming local government and galvanising its leaders is Mr Heseltine's biggest challenge.

He has others. He must neutralise the "green" lobby. He must emphatically mark the end of the era, associated with Nicholas Ridley, when Toryism was associated with sacrificing the countryside to unco-ordinated development. He knows, as do all who know provincial Britain, that the inner towns and cities offer ample room for the development pressure of which Mr Ridley made so much. The decline of the farming industry will mean intense pressure to suburbanise the countryside, and free marketeers will tell the government to let rip. Mr Heseltine should resist this pressure. He should restate the cardinal principles of Tory town and country planning: a marriage of economic growth and democratic control over environmental change.

Michael Heseltine's return to government: this juncture is significant. He is one of the most experienced and certainly the most politically effective of Mr Major's colleagues. He towers above the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. His temperament will be sorely tested in cabinet. His patience must be tested.

Mr Heseltine made himself the symbol of anti-Thatcherism. The prime minister has challenged him to help to define post-Thatcherism.

ONCE MORE WITH GUSTO

John Major was right in saying on the steps of Downing Street yesterday that the way ahead will be neither quick nor easy — especially so, given the legacy of the simultaneous inflation and recession which the former chancellor and former Treasury chief secretary has bequeathed to himself.

The new government's honeymoon in the financial markets lasted only hours, before the pound started sinking within its band in the European Monetary System. The weakness of sterling may well deter big cuts in interest rates, although a token half per cent reduction is still likely, and desirable, before Christmas. As industrialists and home owners realise that high interest rates were not just a personal whim of Mrs Thatcher, there may be a waning of public enthusiasm for Mr Major. And if the present Conservative opinion poll lead over Labour vanishes, the vicious circle of political uncertainty, leading to sterling weakness and high interest rates, could easily reappear.

Can Mr Major break clear? There is a strong view in the Treasury and the Bank of England that he should not even try. The present high interest rates are seen by some of Mr Major's advisers as a desirable discipline imposed on Britain by the EMS. In their view, the year-long recession, predicted by the chairman of ICI and others this week, is an unavoidable sacrifice to curb the excesses of the late 1980s.

If Mr Major has shared this view while at the Treasury, he should think again at Number 10. A long recession is not the most reliable way of curing a chronic inflation. If it were, Britain would have enjoyed price stability throughout the 1980s as a result of the shock of 1979-81. A semi-fixed exchange rate does not provide a guarantee against monetary miscalculations.

A link to a strong currency can be a useful anti-inflationary weapon, but only if the exchange rate is compatible with long-term economic equilibrium and is one that financial markets accept as fair. Even in these circum-

stances, the exchange rate should be viewed only as one of a number of economic indicators, including money supply, fiscal and credit figures and leading signals from the real economy, including industrial order books and wage behaviour. This is how the Bundesbank conducts its monetary policy, setting its duty towards the domestic economy ahead of any exchange rate consideration. So if conditions in the home economy point to lower interest rates, the new government should not be deterred by fears about the currency.

Certainly a recessionary pin can burst the kind of inflationary bubble, much arising from the property market, which developed in Britain last year. Beyond that, structural measures must complement a carefully judged macro-economic policy if long-term inflationary expectations are to be overcome. In the early 1980s, Margaret Thatcher provided some triumphant instances of structural policies against inflation. Changes in labour law, industrial deregulation, privatisation and the opening up of the housing market ranked among her anti-inflationary achievements. As a result, inflation is now much less severe than it was ten years ago. But structural inflation has by no means been rooted out.

In the housing market, the growth of credit must be curbed and rented accommodation further encouraged. In the labour market, there are professional cartels to be dissolved and shortages of skilled labour to be corrected. In the public sector, there is still much scope to improve productivity and reorder pay policy. In the private sector, there are still monopolies to be broken and government subsidies to be removed. In the infrastructure, there is still a need for more privatisation and better management, as well as more investment.

It is the anti-inflationary agenda which Mr Major should now be considering. If he approaches it with renewed gusto, the present recession should not be needlessly prolonged.

GREENING THE MARKETPLACE

With yesterday's proposals for an environmental labelling scheme, the European Commission has for once put the shopper first. The more anxious manufacturers become to cash in on "green consumerism", the more tempted their marketing departments are to make bogus claims, and the greater the need for reliable standards by which to judge their green-tinted incitements to buy. Under the scheme, companies which believed their products met certain agreed standards could choose to apply for the right to carry a label proclaiming their environmental respectability.

Going to the supermarket has become a minor research project for the would-be "green consumer". How can shoppers be expected to know whether the tuna in that tin has been netted along with hundreds of dolphins, are fully generalised claims that products are "environmentally friendly" are impossible to check without a refresher course in science. The question is whether such schemes are best managed at national or EC level. The Commission itself is unusually confident on that point, proposing that its own label should be used in parallel with national schemes such as Germany's well-tried "blue angel" label for the first five years, after which the EC label could be adopted by all. There are strong arguments for and against EC regulation.

The case for national schemes is that competition could act as a spur to raising standards, provided that, as in Germany, foreign companies are free to apply for the most respected badges of honour. Speed and flexibility, essential for a successful vetting

scheme, are not the established forte of the Berlaymont bureaucracy. There could be endless delays while 12 governments haggle in Brussels over the criteria for product selection.

The case against is that a dozen different sets of criteria could undo some of the benefits of the single European market. The scope for green-cloaked protectionism is limitless. This is one case where the principle of subsidiarity dictates the setting of standards by the larger regional unit, while leaving implementation to national governments.

Chris Patten has been prodding the Commission to come up with a scheme throughout his 16 months as environment secretary. The EC scheme, in which participation is voluntary, closely reflects his thinking. Companies which applied would have to satisfy "cradle to grave" standards on the raw materials and energy used in production, and the safety of using and disposing of products. Michael Heseltine, who yesterday succeeded Mr Patten, should give it firm but conditional support as the details are negotiated.

His first condition should be that the scheme must be simple to administer and largely financed by the producers, who will reap the benefits in the marketplace. Secondly, he should insist that the EC scheme is open to non-EC producers. Otherwise, national protection could be replaced by "green" trade barriers around Fortress Europe. Finally, Mr Heseltine should stand by Mr Patten's promise to bring in national labelling in 1992 if the EC scheme is not up and running by the end of next year. Baffled consumers expect no less.

Lessons of the leadership ballots

From Sir Richard Parsons

Sir, The constitutional aspect is perhaps, in the long term, the most important of the circumstances surrounding the change of prime minister. Since power corrupts, any society needs to find a way to control its use. The American founding fathers did so through the separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. In Britain we have preferred to put our cabinet governments, responsible to a House of Commons elected by the people.

What has gone wrong here recently is that Mrs Thatcher has over-dominated her cabinets, reducing our system to a *de facto* presidency, potentially damaging to the position of our real head of state and with the check of an independent legislature. This has been followed by a public race for the position of prime minister, in which great public pressure has been exerted through the media and opinion polls, while the actual electoral process was limited to Conservative MPs.

Public opinion should now choose a new prime minister to adopt a more collegiate position as "prince inter pares", and should also place the political parties to select their leaders in some more satisfactory fashion, reserving the public contest for parliamentary elections in which we can all vote. An immediate return to cabinet government is essential for the health of our democratic system.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PARSONS,
152 De Beauvoir Road, N1.

From Mr Humphrey Malins, MP for Croydon North West (Conservative)

Sir, By making public their voting intentions in the leadership election, Conservative MPs risked causing further division in the party, and damage to themselves and their colleagues. In particular, when cabinet ministers publicly line up behind their favoured candidate, it became obvious that there were divisions at the very top, which divisions were seized upon and heightened by the media.

It is helpful at a general election for one's opponent and the local press to be able to exploit the fact that one did not support the winning candidate. By revealing a choice which may cause offence to loyal constituency party workers, MPs may cause unnecessary resentment and unhappiness and damage to long-term friendships. Rightly or wrongly, it is meant to be a secret ballot. By ignoring that fact, we have made the task of achieving complete party unity more difficult.

Yours sincerely,
HUMPHREY MALINS,
House of Commons.

From Mr E. H. Vale

Sir, There is understandable pressure for a review of the leadership election procedure adopted by the Tories. Should such a review not include the secrecy of the ballot itself?

As representatives of the electorate, although not delegates, what benefit is there in hiding an MP's most important decision? Yours faithfully,
EDWARD VALE,
21 Langley Place, W14.

From Mrs Veronica Hollis

Sir, As a life-long Liberal supporter I find it interesting that when the Conservatives really respect/value each elector and consider the election result of prime importance, they abandon the "first past the post" principle.

Yours faithfully,
VERONICA HOLLIS,
Lumley Croft, Lumley, Emsworth, Hampshire.

From Mr Winston Fletcher

Sir, Like many others, Lord St John of Fawley ("How the Tories can avoid a replay", November

28) complains that the leadership election procedure is too complicated. Yet it seems to have been followed with fascination and apparent understanding by a large proportion of the public.

The Tory system is open, sensible and manifestly fair to all contenders. I believe the Tories have gained in both respect and popularity as a result. Why change it? Yours sincerely,
WINSTON FLETCHER,
25 Wellington Street, WC2.

From Mrs M. Paviour

Sir, In the light of recent events and the comparative youth of the more senior members of all political parties, is it not worthy of consideration that parliamentary procedural rules be introduced to prevent the holding of a leadership election in any political party for more than two parliamentary terms.

Yours faithfully,
MARION PAVIOUR,
Eversfield House, Broughton, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

From Mrs Eileen Appleby

Sir, Margaret Thatcher got more than half the votes and lost. John Major got fewer than half the votes and won. Can this be right? Yours faithfully,
EILEEN APPLEBY,
44 Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W4.

From Mr Peter Arnold

Sir, Why all the criticism of the Tories' leadership election system? After all, what other spectacle could they have staged to gain about 25 "quick" points in the opinion polls, just prior to a general election? What a fine competition!

Yours in anticipation,
PETER ARNOLD,
Montrose, Marsham Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr D. J. Budd and Mr K. H. Day

Sir, By his magnanimous statement in defeat Michael Heseltine has not only salvaged his own position in the Conservative party but will also restore the faith of many of those who considered him the assassin of Margaret Thatcher. We are, Sir, yours etc.,
D. J. BUDD,
KEITH DAY,
1 Beaufort Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

From Mrs Jennifer Moody

Sir, What a fine irony if those Conservative MPs who offered their vote in the hope of preferment to more than one leadership candidate were to find, when claiming their reward, that it had been offered to more than one MP.

Yours etc.,
JENNIFER MOODY,
2 Aylmer Place, N1,
November 27.

From Miss P. Drew

Sir, The result of our "mock" leadership election was declared at 3pm on Tuesday, November 27. Out of a total electorate of 527, staff and students, the percentage of votes cast for each candidate, compared with the real event (in brackets), was:

John Major 49.7 (49.7)
Michael Heseltine 33.8 (35.2)
Douglas Hurd 16.5 (15.1)

We are now open to offers for sample testing on any product, policy or party which people may care to put our way.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA DREW
(Head of sixth form),
Malvern Girls' College,
Malvern, Worcestershire,
November 28.

From Miss Gillian Godley

Sir, Was it not a pleasure to witness such a well-mannered and sporting run campaign? Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN GODLEY,
Four Firs, Marley Lane, Haslemere, Surrey.

Morale in the desert

From Mr H. St J. B. Armitage

Sir, Your correspondents today (November 23) appear to accept at face value Christopher Walker's assessment of morale in the RAF Tornado squadron in Dhahran (report, November 13). From my own observations, during a recent visit to that squadron, Mr Walker's report does not reflect the general morale of the unit.

With my colleagues, including the directors of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, I was impressed by the unit's sense of purpose and application to the task — qualities which are not apparent, existent even, when morale is low.

By the same token, "resentful grumbling in US ranks" may represent views Mr Walker has heard (report, November 23); but in meetings with American marines in the desert (a higher proportion of the 290,000 troops than the number quoted by him) I found that the high morale of the troops and sense of purpose easily outweighed their grumbling, which is the prerogative of troops in such conditions.

Yours faithfully,
H. ST J. B. ARMITAGE,
The Old Vicarage,
East Horsham,
Nr Wells, Somerset,
November 23.

From Mr Stanley R. Carpenter

Sir, Mr Good and Mrs Meardon (November 23) show little understanding of continued 24-hour front-line readiness operations on a squadron of today's aircraft. Modern aircraft and their support

crews need to "rotate" on a regular basis to maintain the 100 per cent serviceability and efficiency of both man and machine.

To suggest that the Tornado squadron needs to "catch up" or increase its "professionalism" is absurd. The war, if there is a war, will be fought and controlled in the air; these crews are the "few" who need our support, not our condemnation.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY R. CARPENTER,
3 Kingston Drive,
Nailsea, Avon,
November 23.

Listed sheds

From Dr P. C. Clemmow

Sir, I have for upwards of 40 years been the owner of the below-mentioned house. It is now listed Grade 2.

I recently received a communication from the district council reminding me of my statutory obligations not to make alterations without listed building consent; further, that this restriction included buildings within "the curtilage".

Since these consist of some half dozen sheds constructed by myself with only minimal craft skills it appears strange that they should now enjoy protection, although in fairness I ought to add that there is also a wooden garage which might be of some architectural interest, having been built entirely from disused chicken coops.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
P. C. CLEMMOW,
Brook Close, Chapel Road,
Gerrards Cross, Wiltshire.

Agenda for the new prime minister

From Mr Edward Manly

Sir, In his first statement the newly-elected leader of our country revealed his top priority: to unite his party and win the next general election. Should it not have been a more deserving priority?

What was in this statement of intent for the homeless, the poor, the disadvantaged, the sick, the abused child and so on? Perhaps in the next week or so he might consider what his real responsibilities should be.

Yours faithfully,
E. MANLY,
Walden, Oxford Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr James R. B. Hinton

Sir, Is it that the standard of education in this country has dropped so much that one potential leader of a once-great Conservative party wishes to play down his academic achievements, whilst another seems to display pride in having none?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES R. B. HINTON,
7 Miz Maze, Leigh, Sharncliffe, Dorset.

From Mrs Marie Forsyth

Sir, Yesterday morning I tried to book a conference venue for a commercial organisation at London University. My conference placement agent said, doubtfully, that the room could only be described as an *academic venue*. "You mean it looks thoroughly run down, shabby and underfunded?" "Yes".

Will Mr Major please take note? Yours sincerely,
MARIE FORSYTH,
28 Stockerston Road, Uppingham, Leicestershire,
November 28.

Looking back on the Thatcher era

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, As one of the handful (including Keith Joseph and the late Airey Neave) who played a crucial part in bringing about Margaret Thatcher's ascendancy, may I dissent from the present euphoria which you appear to share. Margaret Thatcher's downfall, together with the events which preceded and precipitated it, were a tragedy which I, among many, mourn and from which Britain will not recover easily or quickly.

Her failure to achieve her aim of radically reshaping Britain needs searching and wide-ranging study. In part, it stemmed from the inadequacy of the intellectual tools available to turn vision into policy, in part because she was surrounded by lesser men for whom compromise ranks higher than achievement, and in part because vested interests thwarted reform. But all the changes she sought remain urgently needed.

"Pragmatism", which you among others urge, has come to mean reluctance to trace patterns of cause and effect. Conservatives and their supporters in the country remain deeply divided over the causes of our present distemper and the cures needed.

I found it exhilarating to work with Margaret Thatcher, because she was goal-oriented. She has been replaced by the rule of the party machine, an increasingly professionalised party which sacrifices all objectives to the one aim of office, and which regards analytical thought either as an optional extra, or still worse as something to be shunned as "ideology" or "doctrine".

Leadership is to be replaced by followership. But without vision nations perish.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
10 Gerald Road, SW1.

From Mr B. C. J. Warnes

Sir, Your economics editor, Anatole Kaletsky, has produced by far the most penetrating record yet (November 23) of the eco-

From Mr A. R. Collinson

Sir, I hope that the new prime minister will abandon the current misguided fashion of forgoing part of his salary. Considering their responsibilities, prime ministers are paid little enough compared to industry. This current trend may discourage high-calibre candidates who cannot afford to forgo any salary, thus fostering elitism.

Any minister not requiring the full salary should accept it but give any surplus to charity.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY COLLINSON,
The Coach House,
Capenwray,
Carnforth, Lancashire,
November 28.

From Mrs Iris Hardy

Sir, Advice to Mr Major: never sack a cabinet minister, however inept; never disagree with a cabinet colleague in case he resigns; if you fall behind in the opinion polls, get a dagger-proof jacket and send for the removal van.

Yours faithfully,
IRIS HARDY,
Windrush, South Huish,
Nr Kingsbridge, Devon,
November 28.

From Mrs Mercia Mason

Sir, The picture caption on the back page last Saturday informs us that 1991 is to be designated the "Year of the Maze".

In the present circumstances, both international and domestic, what a brilliantly appropriate choice. Yours faithfully,
MERCIA MASON,
Ridge House,
Jonas Lane,
Wadhurst,
East Sussex,
November 26.

From Mr D. K. Ballance

Sir, In your leader of today (November 24) you refer to Arthur's sword in the stone. But, according to Malory, that sword was not Excalibur, which came of course, from the *Lady of the Lake* and was returned to her, at the third attempt, without a ballot.

Yours faithfully,
D. K. BALLANCE
(Head of English),
Chigwell School, Chigwell, Essex.

From Mr John D. Guthrie

Sir, For millions of us, today is a watershed in our lives. Suddenly we are older than the prime minister.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. GUTHRIE,
Kenmore, The Highlands,
East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey,
November 28.

From Mr Christopher Hibbert

Sir, If Mr Turner (November 20) thinks there is nothing more exasperating than wiring a 13-amp plug, he should try getting my granddaughters' fingers into their gloves.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HIBBERT,
6 West Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Richard Lewis

Sir, Yes, Mr Turner, there is something about the tool-box for a 3-amp fuse to go in it.

I remain, Sir, exasperated,
RICHARD LEWIS,
Town Farm, 45 High Street,
Cheddington, Bedfordshire.

From Mrs Penelope F. Parfett

Sir, A husband who gives advice on how to wire a 13-amp plug. Yours, long-sufferingly,
PENELOPE F. PARFETT,
120 Mill Street,
East Malling, Kent.

From Mr Charles Brown

Sir, Trying to find a metal paper clip not entangled with half a dozen others.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BROWN,
13 Great James Street, WC1.

From Mr W. G. Grindle

Sir, Deckchairs. Sincerely,
W. G. GRINDLE,
Dingley Dell, 40 Ashwell Avenue,
Crawley Ridge, Camberley, Surrey.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number —

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Major change in personality

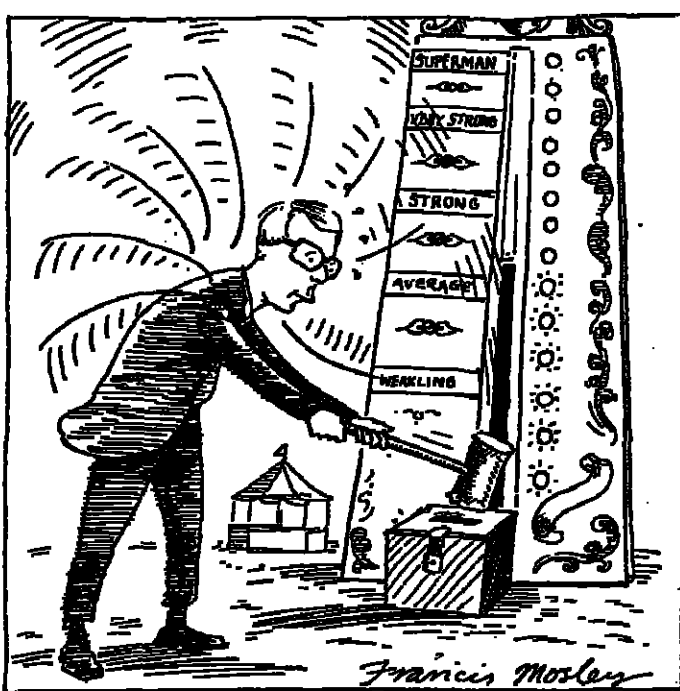
Few who watched John Major's interview with Jonathan Dimbleby last week can have failed to be impressed by the calm but determined way in which he dealt with the questions, not all of them friendly. He was tough but relaxed and showed none of the physical signs of fear or anxiety. Doctors and other health workers were particularly pleased that he chose to emphasise his high regard for the NHS by referring to a potentially fatal childhood illness which was treated successfully, and some excellent orthopaedic surgery which gave him a serviceable leg after it had been almost severed in a road accident while serving with the Standard Chartered Bank in Nigeria. Mr Major's openness in talking about his past health when on the hustings is not shared by his press officers in Whitehall, who, perhaps conscious that his physical stamina has already been questioned, have stuck to what could be paraphrased as a determined "no comment" when asked for further details.

Mr Major has two disadvantages: he looks frail, and is quite different from being frail, and he has a physique which is

very different from other recent Chancellors, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Denis Healey. He may be a fine cricketer, but on the rugby field he would be more likely to be touch judge than second row forward.

In fact, provided that people are not appreciably underweight, thin patients tend to do better than the heavyweights. His second problem is that he follows Margaret Thatcher, a tireless worker who refused even to take time off after varicose vein surgery.

During his three months at the Foreign Office, Mr Major and his wife, Norma, who lost pounds in weight despite the official entertaining, both looked acutely unhappy. He wore the expression of the harried new boy and she seemed overawed by her new milieu. A very different picture of them both now emerges after a spell at Number 11. A colleague said that during the recent election campaign, Mr Major, like his predecessor, was capable of remaining alert on less than six hours' sleep a night. He seldom left headquarters before 2am, and was usually up at 6am for a broadcast. Despite the sleeplessness, he was always unflustered, and energy was dissipated as nervous energy; he proved even-



tempered and intellectually versatile under pressure.

The simple explanation that he was maintained by high levels of circulating adrenalin generated by the excitement of the election, and that this was not his character, is unlikely to be true. While at the Treasury he had no time off work through illness and worked long hours without complaint.

A more likely explanation for the apparent contradiction between the personality displayed while foreign secretary and that seen during his spell as Chancellor and during the campaign is that his early chaotic

childhood has induced in him a deep insecurity. When he knows his subject and is therefore confident, he will be happy and assured. During the learning stage he may be miserable, and he would not be able to bluff. His moods also reflect his wife's: they are an intimate, mutually supporting pair and if she is unhappy he will suffer in sympathy.

And what about the rumours that his recent teeth trouble was the physical manifestation of some inner turmoil? This is apparently quite untrue, and indeed he was in severe pain for a time and never complained once.

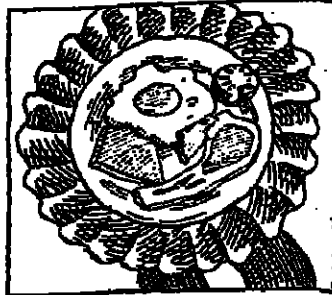
State of parties

Scientific evidence shows that there are still apparently inherent class differences between Tory and socialist voters which may be reflected in their health. The Family Heart Association studied the relative coronary risk factors of delegates to the Labour and Conservative party conferences last month. Conservatives tend to have higher blood cholesterol, while Labour supporters smoke more.

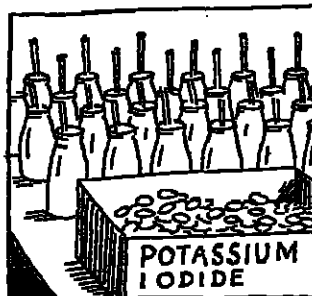
However, not all Conservatives eschew the chips. Michael Heseltine once had an altercation at Waitrose, the Chelsea restaurant which was famous at the time for its nouvelle cuisine, when the chef refused to cook chips. Mr Heseltine vowed he would not return, however tempting the rest of the menu was. The damage caused to Mr Heseltine's health by a fondness for the occasional chip would be more than counterbalanced by his brisk walks around his park. Half an hour to 40 minutes a day exercising the dogs would be enough to keep his coronary arteries open, and the relaxation derived from gardening would be a bonus.

Conservative delegates tend to be older than those from the Labour party, which raises the question as to whether or not high blood cholesterol should be

treated in the over-65s. Patients with high levels of cholesterol in this age group still have an increased risk of coronary heart disease, but some studies have shown that a slightly raised cholesterol level is not necessarily associated with an increased death rate, as in the over-65s a lower mortality from acute infections and cancer balances the adverse effect of raised blood fats on coronary heart disease.



Fallout fears



The High Court action in which compensation is being claimed for two leukaemia victims whose fathers worked at Sellafield nuclear plant will not be heard until October 1992. In the meantime, schools within three miles of Sellafield are to be issued with potassium iodide tablets so that hundreds of children can immediately be

treated if there is a leak from the plant.

In the event of a leak, the immediate risk is from inhalation of radioactive iodine, which would be abundantly present in the effluent and is very volatile. The radioactive iodine is readily concentrated by the thyroid gland. Children are at greater risk than adults, particularly those aged between six and 12 months. Caesium and strontium, other hazards of fallout, pose a less immediate danger, but like radioactive iodine can later contaminate the milk supply. Giving a stable iodine, such as potassium iodide, at the moment of disaster reduces by a factor of ten the dose of the carcinogenic radioactive iodine which will be picked up by the thyroid gland. Appreciably lower absorption rates can also be obtained if the tablets are taken at any time up to four hours after exposure.

Tissues vary in their susceptibility to radiation. Apart from the particular risk to the thyroid gland, there is also an increased risk of leukaemia and damage to the reproductive system.

How not to overdraw on the stress account

Noradrenalin, the hormone released into the bloodstream during times of stress, is a highly addictive substance, says Dr David Lewis, the founder of the Stress Watch charity. Sky divers, racing car drivers and combative politicians crave and even need the "kick hormone", as Dr Lewis calls it, in order to perform to their full potential.

Mrs Thatcher's stirring speeches during the no-confidence debate last week were a prime example of peak performance under extreme stress, and her defiant assertion that she was enjoying herself on what must have been the most stressful day of her political career is an example of the euphoric buzz that "eustress", or creative stress, can bring. She has learnt how to use the primitive "fight or flight" mechanism to maximum advantage.

John Major would do well to follow her example, for those who live by creative stress may also die by it if they do not know how to channel stress constructively into creativity, Dr Lewis says. He holds seminars for banks and other large companies - for £2,000 a day - in order to help employees learn how to maximise their creative stress potential. Last Saturday he

Some people thrive on pressure, others are made ill by it. But we can all exploit it, Victoria McKee reports

held his first seminar for the general public - for £25 per person - at the newly opened Flint House centre for healing and learning in Lewes, Sussex.

Among those who attended were a teacher who had just taken on a daunting new comprehensive school class, a garage owner suffering the strains of being his own boss, a management consultant who felt she could not cope adequately with others' stresses until she could control her own, and an (ostensibly) ice-cool financial manager.

Dr Lewis does not preach against stress. Nor does he regard it as an evil to be eradicated from our lives. "I think of stress in engineering terms - as anything that puts strain on the system," he says. "And in engineering, stress is necessary and can hold a structure together."

The essence of his creative stress counselling is to teach individuals how to recognise

their optimum stress level for performance and to hold it there, without going over the top into burn-out. He does this with the help of a computer, numerous bio-feedback gadgets, and what he calls a "mind mirror" - an electroencephalograph (EEG), which records the brain's electrical activity via electrodes placed on the scalp.

One of his favourite tricks is hooking up competitive executives to the EEG and telling them they are going to drive a toy train set with their brain waves. The winner will be the one who gets the train to go round

fastest. The catch is that the train is powered by alpha waves, which are produced only when in a state of alert relaxation. "The harder they try the worse they do; they can win only by relaxing," he says. But if he is championing creative stress, why the need for relaxation? Dr Lewis explains his "stress currency" theory. "You have only so much stress currency to spend," he says, "and everything in life has its price. So if you have, say, 100 units of stress to spend a day and you waste 80 having a row with your partner and 30 more fuming in traffic jams, you're going to be in the red by the time you get to work."

His relaxation techniques are to be employed only at those times when you do not want to bring stress into creative play, or when you feel you are going

into a state of dry-mouthed, head-swirling panic.

"People may need the tensions of a near deadline to spur them on to their best efforts - and there is nothing wrong with that," Dr Lewis says. "An actress may require a certain level of stage fright to give the performance of her life. If I were to try to make these people generally more relaxed I might make them less good at their jobs. I would only like to help them to be able to relax when they are not working, so they can spend their stress currency to best advantage."

Anaesthetists and air traffic controllers have to learn to control their stress levels differently, so that they can remain attentive during long periods when nothing is happening, and are able to respond quickly and efficiently during an emergency. "Sometimes I have to help people to lower their level of arousal, so they don't become bored and lethargic," Dr Lewis says.

Creative stress, Dr Lewis explains, "is about being in control of your stress, and being aware of the small symptoms of unwanted stress so that you can control them before they get out of hand. You can learn to set your arousal level where you want it to achieve peak performance. I work with tennis players, and marksmen and downhill skiers who need to know how to do this, as well as with corporate clients."

Dr Lewis stresses that he is not happy to perform "a mopping-up operation in companies which put too many stresses on their employees and think, because they call me in, that makes it all right. They have to be prepared to change."

Nick Carew Hunt, an



Looking for trouble: some politicians need the "kick hormone" to perform; will John Major become addicted?

administrator in financial futures in the City who attended Dr Lewis's recent class, is fit and apparently calm. But he claims to be "sometimes seething inside", and is unable to dispel his stress in the explosive manner of his colleagues on the trading floors. Other members of the class said they were there because they were in high-stress situations ranging from adjusting to teenage children leaving home, to feeling frustrated at home with young children.

The stress that comes from worrying about things you cannot change, or from anger at others - or anger turned inward against yourself - is totally useless, Dr Lewis says. "Learn about your red buttons and don't let others push them and manipulate you," he says. "Negative stress is about feeling out of control. Learn to be pro-active rather than reactive."

Dr Lewis's basic kit for achieving creative stress consists of awareness of your peak

stress levels and how to achieve them; anticipation of negatively stressful situations; avoidance of such situations when possible; appraisal - stepping back from a situation to see why it is making you stressful; action - to improve your physical health by, for example, exercise and relaxation; assertiveness - learning to defend your territory without attacking anyone else's; altering perception - it is how you perceive an event that is stressful, rather than the event

itself; and amnesty - not harbouring grudges against anyone else, or against yourself. "Keep a stress diary for a little while," he advises, "and note your peak performance days - those days when everything seems to go right. That is when your stress levels are just right. But there are valuable lessons to be learnt from the days when things go wrong."

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Defiant



Reza Pahlavi in the December

TATLER

The courage to show your face

TO NON-sufferers, acne may seem a minor, temporarily distressing problem which will magically vanish as soon as adolescence is over. But in those seriously affected the condition can cause clinical depression, and even suicide.

Last weekend, the body of 16-year-old Simon May was found after he had been missing for 16 days. Simon had been turned down by the army, apparently because of his severe, chronic acne. The armed forces say applicants suffering from chronic acne may indeed be rejected, owing to tight modern combat clothes, the possibility of serving in tropical climates and difficulties with washing.

A recent survey on acne conducted by Dr William Cunliffe, a consultant dermatologist at Leeds Infirmary, found that 27 per cent of teenagers with bad acne developed clinical depression because they felt disfigured, ugly and dirty. About three-quarters of adolescents suffer from at least an occasional spot - but when does this become acne? Dr Colin Holden, a skin specialist at St Helier hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, says there is no medical difference. "Most spots in teenagers are in fact acne," he says. "Practically everybody gets some, except for those with excep-

tionally dry skins. In fact, people who don't get acne are statistically the odd ones out. "But the idea that it is a purely teenage complaint is wrong. At our clinic, at least 7 per cent of patients are mature adults. Men and women can get acne up to middle age."

Although more boys than girls suffer, the widespread use of oral contraceptives and other hormone-containing drugs means that the incidence among women of all ages is now increasing.

Acne is caused when the sebaceous glands over-produce oil because of an abnormal response to male-type hormones. But although it cannot yet be prevented, it is now a completely treatable condition, provided treatment is started early enough.

Most dermatologists now advise starting acne treatment as soon as a few spots are noticed. Dr Holden says: "If it is very mild, topical treatments from the chemist can usually clear it up, and in any case, it's worth asking the pharmacist for advice. But nobody should be afraid of

going to the doctor for advice on acne. These days, doctors won't dismiss the condition as something you'll grow out of." Dermatologists are increasingly recommending antibiotics to treat even mild acne, as they say there is no reason why anybody should have to suffer the disfigurement of spots. Most prescription treatments are based on the antibiotic tetracycline.

THEIR disadvantage is that they work extremely slowly, and most have to be taken at set times of the day, on an empty stomach. In addition, most will not work in conjunction with milk or dairy products. Minocin, a new antibiotic treatment, can, however, be taken with meals once or twice a day.

There is usually little noticeable improvement for four to six weeks, but by the end of three months, there should be a 40 per cent improvement. If the drugs are taken conscientiously, 80 per cent of the acne will have disappeared by the end of six months. One drawback with drugs is that they have to be taken for the whole

of one's "acne life". Such long-term drug treatment does have its critics - but adverse side-effects such as mild gastrointestinal problems, or (as with all antibiotics) thrush in women, appear to be slight.

Most doctors advise continuing with creams and lotions, usually those based on benzoyl peroxide, as well as taking the drugs, which work to prevent bacteria from entering the spots and causing scarring. Really severe cases in men can now be treated effectively with vitamin A (brand name Roaccutane). This treatment is available only on hospital prescription, and is not normally given to women as it can cause malformations in foetuses. Severe female acne is best treated with Diamene, a hormonal preparation given in combination with the contraceptive pill.

Acne is known to be hereditary. There is little scientific evidence of a connection with diet, hygiene or lifestyle, although some modern drugs can aggravate the problem. Dr Cunliffe has embarked on a research project to try to discover the cause of the condition, and is looking forward to the day when an anti-acne vaccine can be given to those at risk.

LIZ HODGKINSON

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COLDS, SINUS CATARRH?

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Addicts down but not out

The church is pioneering a £2 million project to rescue the destitute from the demon drink. Ruth Gledhill reports

When he was five years old, Dr Leslie Griffiths spent the bitter winter of 1947 wandering the streets of Llanelli with his brother and his mother. His father, an alcoholic who was violent when drunk, had given his family a week's notice to move out of their home.

"People took us in for a week or two. Eventually we found a lean-to with one room and no electricity or water," Dr Griffiths says. The members of a small Methodist chapel in Burry Port, near Llanelli, kept the three fed and clothed. Their kindness planted the seed that persuaded Dr Griffiths to enter the church. Apart from this, he recalls it as a "terrible time".

"Those little old ladies in the chapel brought me into Christianity, not through doctrine or theology but through goodness," Dr Griffiths says. "I was there recently and many of them are still there. The woman who taught me to read was there."

His personal experience of the dangers of alcoholism is also behind the transformation of a former workhouse into a detoxification centre to provide homeless alcoholics and drug addicts on London's streets with a standard of help and treatment rarely found outside the private sector. In the refurbishment of St Luke's, in Lambeth, the West London Mission Circuit of the Methodist church is pioneering a four-stage recovery programme to take down-and-outs from the park bench to independent living in a home of their own.

The £2 million project, sponsored partly by British Telecom, is due to open next year. Dr Griffiths is its instigator and the superintendent of the West London Mission, known to BBC Radio 4 listeners as a regular contributor to *Thought for the Day*.

St Luke's has been used as a centre to help alcoholics and destitute people for more than 50

years. But many former patients of the dark and gloomy building relapsed. "In terms of people's self-image, it was vital something be done," Dr Griffiths says. He is determined that the new St Luke's will provide the standard of care which, until now, has been available only in private treatment centres.

Although other churches have drink-related social programmes, Dr Griffiths believes St Luke's will be the first church project offering an all-in service from the street to independent living.

The five churches have a reputation for preaching total abstinence: some former churchgoers claim little has changed since the days of the *Band of Hope* and signing the pledge. But, contrary to public perception, it was not always thus. Methodists, although urging temperance, did not allow their buildings to be used for meetings campaigning for teetotalism.

Dr Griffiths stresses that St Luke's will not preach the evils of drink to its clients, but will attempt to educate them to live without it. They will be taught they are "not bad people, but sick people".

He says: "The Methodist teaching on drink has changed a great deal over the past few years. I am of the first generation of Methodist ministers who did not have to declare ourselves total abstainers before we presented ourselves to be ministers. I drink wine with meals."

Methodists now are encouraged to choose for themselves whether or not to abstain from alcohol, rather than have abstinence imposed from above.

Dr Griffiths won a place at Llanelli grammar school and took a degree in medieval literature at the University of Wales, in Cardiff. He studied theology at Cambridge and was sent to do missionary and pastoral work in Haiti, where he stayed for ten



Helping hands: from left, Gilbert Haywood and Terry McCarty, both of the West London Mission, check plans with St Luke's Dr Leslie Griffiths and Mike Abell

years. Five years ago, he was asked to join the West London Mission, with part of his brief being to oversee the transformation of St Luke's, in Wincott Street.

"St Luke's was already on the agenda as priority number one. The important thing is that when I came to the West London Mission I felt I had come to do work I had been preparing for since my birth," he says.

Dr Griffiths, who will move on from the mission to become minister at the Golders Green Trinity United Reformed and Methodist church in north London next August, says: "We have a lot more money to find."

"I am very excited that some of the most broken, dispirited people with no sense of their own value, living on London's streets, are going to have access to a top-class service. We are offering a quality service to some pretty hopeless people because we believe in them. We want to give them some hope."

Since it was founded in 1887, the West London Mission has been involved in a combination of preaching the gospel and social work. As superintendent, Dr Griffiths is following in the footsteps of one of Britain's best-known Methodists, Lord Soper, superintendent there from 1936 to 1978. Lord Soper acquired St Luke's, a former 60-bed workhouse, after working with homeless people under Hungerford Bridge.

The West London Mission, now based at the Hyde Street Methodist church, spends £1.1 million on social work each year and employs 70 social workers, medical, administrative and ancillary staff, plus six hospital chaplains. About £150,000 comes from its own resources and the rest from trusts, grants and the Church Urban Fund. Self-help groups such as

'Some of the most dispirited people, with no sense of their own value, will have access to a top-class service, because we believe in them'

Gamblers Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Anorexia Aid meet in the basement of the Hyde Street premises.

The mission also runs the Katherine Price Hughes bail remand hostel in Highbury; the Bridge, a hostel for young people at risk, in Clapham; and the West London Day Centre and the Lambeth Walk-In, day centres for homeless people. On Wednesdays, the church opens its crypt to the homeless. Grove House in Wandsworth, a follow-on house

for St Luke's provides a post-drying-out service for ten men.

St Luke's boasts Charlie Chaplin as its best-known former resident: the comedian lived there as a child with his mother, a domestic worker, after his father deserted them.

Despite appalling conditions, St Luke's went on taking in down-and-outs from London's streets for detoxification until two years ago, housing them in 44 rooms measuring 4ft by 6ft. "It was a filthy, dark den of iniquity," says Mike Abell, a social worker who was persuaded to turn down a job in America to be director of St Luke's and supervise the treatment programme. "You could say it prolonged life or postponed death. A lot of people went out and came back in again." The new St Luke's will have just 30 beds

St Luke's is aiming to raise more than £1 million before next summer's opening. British Telecom has given £50,000 from its community action fund and Mike Corby Leisure, a fitness company based in the City, is designing the gym.

Mr Abell is incorporating ideas from American and UK alcohol treatment programmes into St Luke's. The treatment of women will be a priority. Rooms will be double their previous size, with a washbasin and wardrobe, and clients will have use of a sauna, gym and sun roof.

Dr Griffiths regards helping those in need as an "integral part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ". Many people, Christians included, regard the drunks on London's streets as responsible for their own predicament and beyond help. Dr Griffiths stands by the instruction of John Wesley, Methodism's founder, to "go not to those who need you, but those who need you most".

Saturday Review



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SATURDAY

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24 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A nasty case of terminal decline

More information technology companies are joining users of computers in shedding staff through restructuring and redundancies.

In the past couple of months a number of hardware manufacturers and software service companies have announced the largest reductions seen in the sector.

"The full impact of the weakening economy was felt on computer company earnings in October and there is a certain amount of herd instinct in the industry, with everyone announcing staff lay-offs at the same time," says David Gibbons, an analyst with the stockbroker James Capel.

Many companies, and particularly computer manufacturers in the United States, declared disappointing profits at the end of last month. "However, there is the possibility of further staff cuts to come as a lot of the medium sized British information technology companies have question marks hanging over their future," Mr Gibbons says. "If things are still bad in six months' time, there will be further cost-cutting."

The 160 companies belonging to the Computing Services Association (CSA) have announced this month that they have cut more than 1,000 staff in the past quarter, making it the first time this sector has reduced its workforce. "The whole job market is tightening and it is getting worse," Doug Eyskens, the director-general of the CSA, says.

SD-Scicon, the software company, laid off 120 management staff, about 5 per cent of the total workforce, and will leave another 40

JOBS

vacancies unfilled to save about £4 million on wages, while Software AG, the German services company, made more than a quarter of its British staff redundant at the end of October. The 50 employees involved were told to leave on the same day.

"Other companies have been doing it, but a lot more quietly," Mr Eyskens says. IBM, the world's largest computer company, is restructuring its British operations by transferring 600 to 800 administrative staff into sales and services, reducing the potential vacancies in these areas.

The company expects a further 400 to 600 staff to leave or take early retirement. IBM had planned to implement the changes during the next five years, but this has been halved in the face of the current economic difficulties.

Digital Equipment, the second largest computer company, has warned that revenue from Europe, which has maintained the company's growth and profitability recently, has begun to decline.

Several months ago, about 3,000 staff voluntarily took up financial offers to leave the company and thousands more are to be offered similar incentives, according to John Smith, a senior vice-president of operations for the company.

Data General, the US mini-computer company, also says it is reducing its British workforce by 90, including managerial, sales and technical staff. It blames the slump and high interest rates.

LESLIE TILLEY

While the UN debates a treaty to cut pollution by 1992, scientists have come up with a greener fuel, Pearce Wright reports

Research into novel methods of generating power cleanly from coal has reached a critical stage. If successful, the new technology could cut the cost of power production, and reduce pollution and the threat of global warming.

Public attention was focused on power station pollution earlier this month, at the World Climate Conference in Geneva, when international experts discussed the best ways to stop the release of the principal greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide.

If subsequent proposals submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme, which organised the meeting, are adopted, an unprecedented treaty will come into force in 1992 to protect the atmosphere. It would set worldwide limits on emissions from vehicles and coal-fired power stations.

Those two sources are the prime targets because carbon dioxide from burning coal accounts for 15 per cent of man-made greenhouse gases discharged into the atmosphere, with another 16 per cent coming from vehicle exhausts.

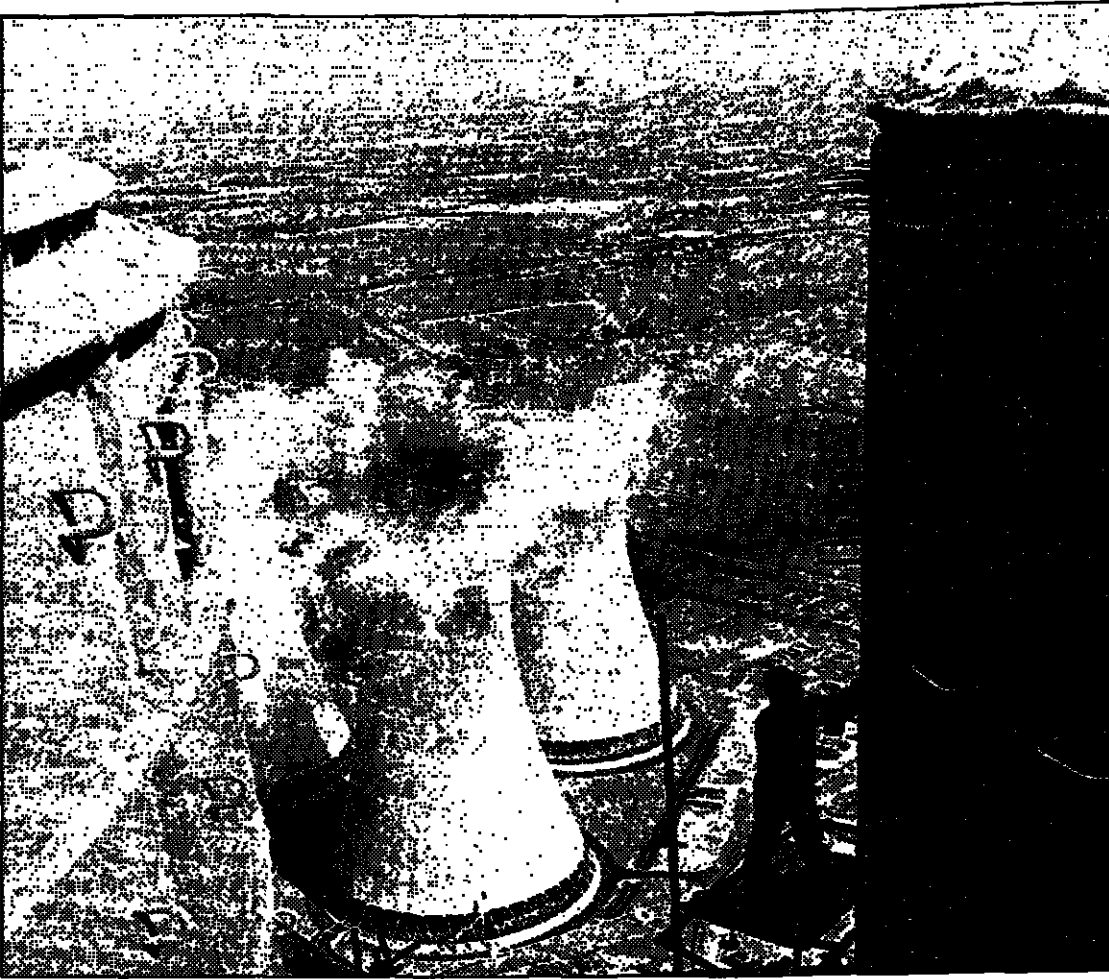
In advance of the treaty, some EC countries have decided to stabilise their carbon dioxide emissions at present levels by the year 2000, although Britain has chosen 2005 as its target.

The introduction of controls has important implications for the operation of power stations in Britain, which burn 75 million tons of coal a year, but such problems pale in significance against the 885 million tons produced annually in China, more than 600 million tons in the Soviet Union and the United States and nearly 200 million tons in both Poland and India.

When coupled with the recent obligations to reduce sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from burning coal, in the fight against acid rain, the new restrictions might have been seen as a last straw but for an economic and technological twist.

While motorists understandably bemoan the increase in petrol prices, the tensions in the Gulf are a reminder of the lesson from the 1973 oil crisis of the need to retain the maximum diversity in fuel supplies.

No smoking, please, all over the world



Old style: huge power stations, such as the Drax on Humber, are to be replaced by more efficient designs

To some extent, the Middle East problems have brought an unexpected respite to coal in the competitive world of energy supplies. However, according to Dr John Whitehead, the deputy director of British Coal's research establishment at Stoke Orchard, near

Cheltenham: "If coal is to have a secure, long-term future, scientists and engineers must improve the efficiency of coal-burning systems and limit their environmental impact."

Two developments have opened the way to the future. The first is a

£100 million experiment on a cleaner method of power generation, known as the British coal topping cycle.

The second is the trend in the electricity supply industry to move away from huge 2,500 megawatt coal-fired plants, epitomised by the

Drax station on Humber, to a smaller, more efficient and environmentally acceptable design. With high interest rates, the long construction time for such large stations has doubled their costs. Moreover, in a much more competitive market, the electricity suppliers will find it expensive to supply power to a large number of customers, scattered about the country, from such big plants.

For commercial reasons, power stations in the 400 megawatt range are becoming more attractive for the supply industry to operate. The smaller station is also an ideal candidate for the new topping-cycle technology, which promises a 20 per cent reduction in electricity generating costs, a 20 per cent reduction in the coal burnt for each unit of electricity produced and relatively low capital costs, combined with reduced pollution.

An experimental version of the topping cycle is under development by British Coal at Grimethorpe, near Barnsley, in research backed by the energy department, the electricity supply industry and overseas companies.

The new type of power station has two furnaces burning coal. One is a more advanced version of the usual type, which heats water in boiler tubes for the power to drive a steam turbine. The other is designed to burn its coal to make gas, which is then cleaned and used at the white-hot temperature of 1,260°C to drive gas turbines. After driving the gas turbines, enough energy remains in the waste exhaust gases to provide a secondary supply of heat for the steam generators.

With several other technical sleights of hand to make maximum use of the available heat energy, British Coal researchers claim the new technology gives a thermal efficiency of 45 per cent, compared with 35 per cent for the best modern stations.

Although there is a wealth of experience in steam and natural gas-driven turbines, the high temperatures and potentially corrosive nature of coal-derived gas puts the topping cycle project at the forefront of research in alternative fuel technology.

Philosophers have pondered it. Novelists have written about it. Hollywood has made millions from it. But the difference between men and women, an age-old fascination, turns on a tiny wrinkle in the genetic material that makes us all human.

Were it not for the fact that males produce a special substance called the testis-determining factor (TDF), everyone would be born a girl. This induces embryos to develop male sex organs that would otherwise grow to be female.

Women who should have been men

male. Every cell in our body contains 23 pairs of chromosomes. All these pairs look very much the same, except for one: the sex chromosomes. Females have a pair of identical X chromosomes — males, on the other hand, have an X paired with a Y chromosome.

Because the Y chromosome is uniquely male, it must contain the instructions to make TDF — the

essential ingredient of maleness. But the location of the TDF gene has not yet been found conclusively. Researchers believed that they had hit the spot in 1987, with the discovery of a male-specific gene on the Y chromosome called ZFY.

But ZFY could not be the gene for TDF, because it was not always found on the Y chromosome — some animals had ZFY-like genes

on other chromosomes as well. Earlier this year, researchers found a more plausible candidate gene, called Sry, a near-neighbour of ZFY on the Y chromosome.

Dr Peter Goodfellow and his colleagues, at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's laboratories in London, have been working on Sry, collecting evidence that it really is the TDF gene, and not another blind alley. In today's

Nature they describe the case of a young woman who has every appearance of being a female — except that she has XY sex chromosomes, rather than XX. So why is she not a man? The answer is that the Sry on her Y chromosome is faulty.

Dr Gerd Scherer at the University of Freiburg, in Germany, uncovered a similar case history of an individual with XY sex chro-

mosomes who is a woman simply because her copy of Sry is defective.

Dr Goodfellow's team also looked at another XY woman, who had inherited her defective Sry from her father. If her father had a faulty Sry, why is he not a woman? Logic seems to insist that the very thing he cannot be is a male, still less a fertile one. Could it be that he has healthy as well as defective copies of Sry in his body?

HENRY GEE

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Dr Peter Goodfellow: sex study

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Spot the people, damn uplift

When I was at school there was a tennis professional (he was also the headmaster's secretary) whose performance in the first role always excited my admiration. Playing on the best courts, opposite the school shop from which I was frequently coming out with something to eat, he dealt with the school's best players in a relaxed fashion, sending them scurrying about after his carefully placed shots, hardly moving his feet, and with his eyes only half open. Sir Victor Pritchett is his literary equivalent.

Reflecting on the comparison I wonder now if my high opinion of the way in which the pro carried out his task was not due so much to the total freedom of his activities from any sort of moral fervour, as to their obvious skill and economy. All the other adults about the place had their shoulders firmly pressed against the great wheel of character-building, he seemed concerned only to get his pupils to do the thing well.

Pritchett's publishers are celebrating his nineteenth birthday by publishing his *Complete Short Stories*, all 83 of them, in a particularly handsome volume, with reasonable margins and an attractive type. Together with that they have brought out *Lasting Impressions*, 27 critical pieces, none of them much more than six pages in length. The stories cover a whole career, from the late Thirties to the end of the Eighties.

Both as a story-teller and as critic, Pritchett coolly abstains from being censorious. His fictional characters are often, indeed very often, weird and they often do bad things, but they are seldom

Anthony Quinton
on the life's work
of our grand old
pro of literary
person-watching

**THE COMPLETE
SHORT STORIES**
By V. S. Pritchett
Chatto and Windus, £25.00

**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**
By V. S. Pritchett
Chatto and Windus, £15.99

seriously evil. There is no clamant system of opinions about the right management of human conduct or the right ordering of human society churning around behind the surface of his narration. His aim is to catch the distinguishing idiosyncrasy of his creations, to pin down what he has described as insight or a "glance through".

His rate of fictional production seems to have gone up with the passage of time. Four hundred pages contain the work of the Thirties, Forties and Fifties; twice as much space is needed for the stories of the following three decades. The first of all, "Sense of Humour", is very much of its epoch, of John Lehmann's *New Writing*, and *Lilliput*. His sentences, usually short, are here at their most staccato. Mr Humphrey, a commercial traveller and the son of an undertaker, transfers the affections of a hotel recep-

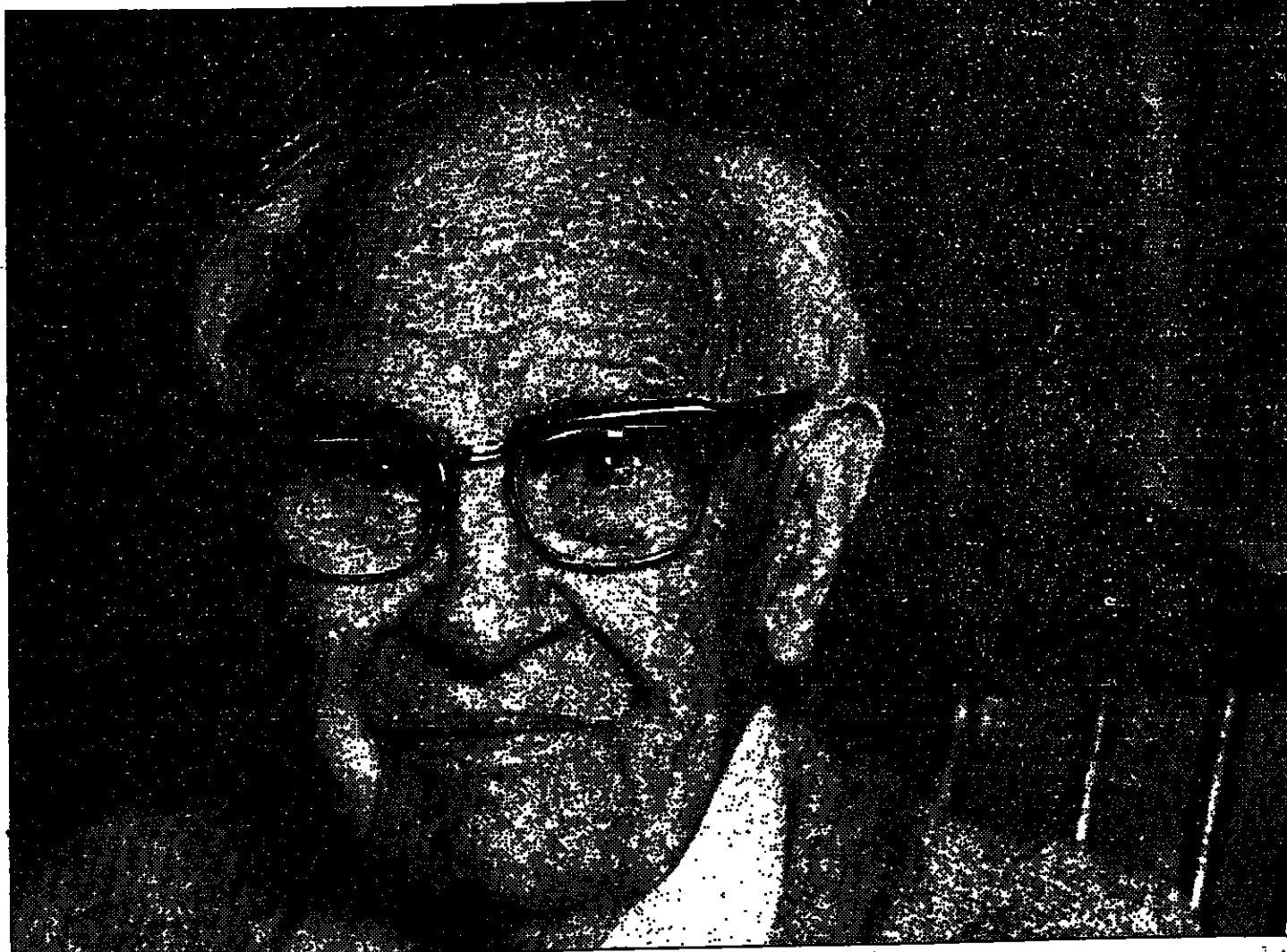
tionist from a primordial garage-hand to himself, with sad consequences. The dialogue is already Pritchettian:

She had her head screwed on all right. She said: "Some girls have no pride once the lights go down." Every time I went to that town I took a box of something. Samples mostly, they didn't cost me anything. "Don't thank me," I said. "Thank the firm."

Even more characteristic is Mr Humphrey's way of winning people over in small towns by being seen at the Presbyterian church in the morning and at the Methodist chapel in the evening. The extremities of Protestantism figure largely in Pritchett's work, in his fine novel *Mr Belvedere* and one of his best and best-known stories, "The Saint", about the first of day of Mr Timberlake of the Church of the Last Purification of Toronto, Canada.

As a writer of fiction Pritchett serves something like the same purpose for England as Simenon does for France. Both are satisfied to look, see and record. There are, of course, jokes in Pritchett, violence, broths and corrupt members of the *Chambre des Députés* in Simenon, as might be expected from their respective nationalities. But both really write about the society they live in, and do not simply draw on it for props with which to surround versions of themselves and their intimates.

That observational stance, without moralising or ideological designs on the reader, is taken throughout his critical writing. "My purpose," he says in the



Sir Victor Pritchett, 90 on December 16, a very English tone of voice, in its dry observation, and avoidance of enthusiasm and bullying

typically short preface to *Lasting Impressions*, "has always been to explore the writers and their intentions." He sets about his work in this field with blithe indifference to the brooding mountains of academic claptrap that surround him. His criticism is biographical and, in a footnote-free way, historical. As with the characters of his stories he seeks the distinguishing uniqueness of his subjects, to bring it out by way of unobvious comparisons and

differentiations. He seldom condemns a writer, no doubt on the ground that there is no point in writing about someone you do not think is any good. He probably recognises that garbage disposal is necessary work, but simply does not choose to follow it himself.

In his collection *The Tale Bearers* there is an assault on Rider Haggard ("Bad grammar and slipshod and even vulgar writing... He dare not go in for more than pasteboard character"),

but that is not really an exception, since he was reviewing not Rider Haggard himself, but a biography of him.

At the beginning of the piece in question he makes an admission:

Very rarely, when I was young, do I seem to have had healthy tastes in literature. Mason, Weyman, Buchan, Rider Haggard passed me by. I was afflicted by a morbid interest in the adult and dæmonised those sunny, athletic and strenuous

leader-types who are supposed to be the schoolboy's natural heroes.

The child was father of the man. In that passage both Pritchett's exploratory passion and his distaste for uplift are clearly expressed. It is wonderful to think for how long these fine properties were displayed, week after week, in that carnival of illusion and exhortation, *The New Statesman*, and *Nation*.

Oh, go on, biff the president again

US PRESIDENT going gaga (what's new?), vice-president unacceptable; secret watchdog committee of mandarins (the same one that got rid of Roosevelt) hires Jackal-like assassin to remove both men, in the White House, during the president's birthday celebrations, thus provoking in the reader a certain sense of déjà-vu. FBI man and discredited Soviet military intelligence officer form uneasy post-glassnost alliance to try to unravel a complicated net of East-West intrigue, dating back several decades. *White Lies* is all right on uncovering covered traces, and fair on speculation; but too much coincidence results in overcast dovetails at the expense of credibility. Although told with care and efficiency, the shall-we

THRILLERS

Chris Petit

WHITE LIES
By Christopher Hyde
Simon & Schuster, £13.95

assassinate-the-president plot and its steely-eyed executioner have, for all the careful tagging up here, been done to death. *Beta (plus?)*

● The real battles of Los Angeles, as shown by Jonathan Kellerman's *Time Bomb* (Macdonald, £13.95), are the suburban ones of busing, mixed education policies, and the gradual erosion of hitherto inviolable WASP communities. Kellerman's caring shrink hero is called in to counsel children after a playground shooting, in which the would-be assassin is shot dead. When asked to provide a psychological profile of the assassin, shrink embarks on a laborious, garrulous investigation that essentially takes the form of a series of shrink-like interviews across one table or another. Information, laboriously extracted, adds up to a dossier on Californian racism, with the emphasis on neo-Nazi weird, but not weird enough over a distance of 494 pages. Pacing is

the main problem, thanks to spotty action and suspense, which are signalled by the disintegration of prose into staccato verses. *Beta*.

● Money wizard does a runner with the funds in Peter Corby's *Picking The Crew* (Macdonald, £12.95), a first novel based on 20 years' experience in the City, not that one would guess. On the story's financial front, author plays his cards close to his chest, preferring instead an adventure yarn four-square in the British tradition. Discredited colleagues plan revenge against their former boss, swanning around in unextraditable luxury, by mounting an action-mannish raid, involving activities that feature heavily on the author's list of recreational pastimes — sailing and rock-climbing. Fast read, routine outdoors action — introspective types need not apply. *Beta minus*.

● In *The Naked Angels*, by Anthony Grey (Macmillan, £13.99), the US president is kidnapped by Russian sex-bomb Helga, whose demand for the establishment of a Moscow Playboy Club leads to an uneasy priapic farce, which purports to tell the real story behind the Cold War thaw. Ageing male politicians seek violent solutions to international problems, in sublimation of their own vanished virility;

hence the mission of Helga and her "angels" to provide a rehabilitation programme for sexual frustration among the political fraternity. But who controls Helga? Fearless tabloid hack Gilbert Groot willingly penetrates the defences in search of his scoop, to predictable effect. *Beta minus*.

● Something perverted stirs under the placid American suburban surface: a babysitter uncovers a middle-class porno ring in *Secret Strangers*, by Thomas Tessier (Macdonald, £12.95) and her thoughts turn to blackmail. After a nasty start, things get guessable, then stuck in an old Ross Macdonald groove: with the sins of the father falling like a ton of bricks on the daughter. Brisk, readable. *Beta (plus?)*.

● Investigative journo after that big scoop goes undercover, to expose a modern Fagin operating an international black market from Istanbul, his big op, one that has the British government caught in murky double-dealings that make Ollie North look like a novice. Scenes and sub-plots function more efficiently than surface narrative in Robin Lakoff's *Pat Man's Shadow* (Viking, £13.99), which suggests first hand experience of low-life Turkish subcultures. *Beta (plus?)*.

Class-age rebel

Anne Barnes

**THE FORGERIES OF
JEALOUSY**

By Virginia Budd
Piatkus, £12.95

THE REMOVAL MEN

By David Phillips
Duckworth, £12.95

**THE STORY OF THE
LAST THOUGHT**

By Edgar Hilseurath
Scribners, £14.95

THE interesting novels this week have nothing at all in common. They range from small pictures of English country life to huge visions of tyranny and liberty as it appears across the world. To start at the small end, Virginia Budd's formula in *The Forgeries of Jealousy* is cautious and familiar. Bet Brandon, recently widowed, moves from her house in Hampstead to an old rectory in Suffolk, where she intends to spend the rest of her middle age cultivating her garden and her soul. Unfortunately she takes with her an assortment of relatives whom she doesn't much like, and who immediately set up a series of domestic quarrels that provide a framework for her life. They also give opportunities for most of the humour of the story. In order to escape them, Bet takes a lover of the most troublesome sort, and then spends much of her time spinning from elation to jealousy — emotions that she does her best to hide under frequent peeling of potatoes and similar distractions. It is an unambitious but well constructed picture of a middle-aged woman defying the middle-class rules by which she has lived her life. Sad that one never feels it can last for very long.

More bizarre relatives turn up in *The Removal Men*, by David Phillips. When the elderly and wealthy 13th Earl of Kinscith is lost in an air disaster, he leaves behind him various layers of wives, children and grand-children, with differing claims to his title and money. Solicitors, accountants and bankers rush in to exercise their various skills in working out complicated ways of avoiding tax. When millions of pounds are at stake, almost anything is possible. The deceased earl must be buried half in France and half in Switzerland to minimise death duties, coffins must be mysteriously swapped around, some people kidnapped, others nearly murdered. People romp around in disguise or fancy dress, or climb into the wrong beds, and carry out improbable

manoeuvres, as if they are taking part in an 18th century farce, although at other times the author seems to be coolly satirising the sort of insanity that lurks beneath the surface of mindless jetsetters and their professional advisers. Readers who are not too bothered by the way a plot hangs together will find Phillips urbane and witty, within the rather cynical limitations he has set himself.

A wider canvas is laid out in *The Story of the Last Thought*, but Edgar Hilseurath's way of recounting history is simpler. He is mainly concerned to depict the massacre of Armenians by the Turks in 1915, but in order to put this terrible story of genocide into context, he goes far back into Armenian history and folklore, and also moves forward to relate the events of the holocaust and the second world war to those of 1915. The story is told through the persona of Thovma, and is based on the Armenian idea that a man's last thought, when he is dying, can fly anywhere. Thovma's thought goes back to his birth, to the life of his father, who was a resistance fighter, and to his mother, who gave birth to him while being driven on a forced march by her Turkish captors. From that point Thovma's mind flutters about blending rumour with fantasy, myth with fact, and building up, through this series of stories and conversations, a complex picture of the horrors of the century.

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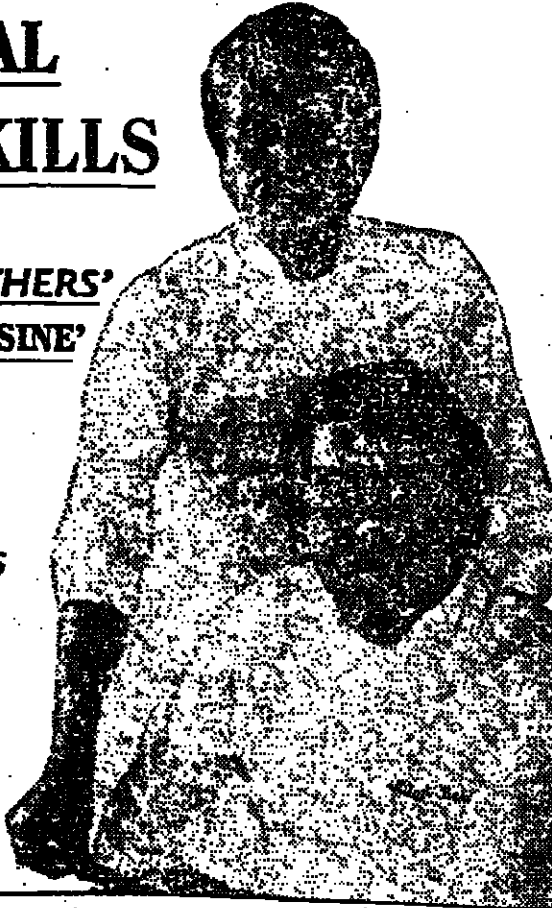
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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Direct appeal to emotions

David Robinson on *Come See the Paradise*, *The Comfort of Strangers*, *The Vampire's Kiss*, *Love Hurts*, *Dr M.* and *The Sheltering Sky*

Alan Parker is an enormously likeable, waywardly gifted talent, and if he never makes a wholly satisfactory film it is generally because his enthusiasm and his ambition outrun him. Nor does he court popularity. In *Come See the Paradise* (15, Odeon Haymarket) he has tackled the sensitive subject of the internment and virtual dispossession of thousands of Japanese Americans in the mood of racist panic that followed Pearl Harbor.

Parker is the first director to attempt the subject, and it would be unreasonable to expect him to be the definitive statement. He has weakened the impact by cramming too much into his film: as well as the internment story, the long script embraces inter-racial love and scenes from 1930s American labour wars.

The winning Dennis Quaid plays the high-principled hero who elopes with a Japanese beauty despite her father's racial objections, and laws which prohibit intermarriage. As a G.I. he goes absent without leave to visit his wife and child in their wretched internment, which is in the process of irresistibly destroying traditional family ties.

The only disappointing performance among the largely Japanese cast is the doll-like Tamlyn Tomita as the wife. Parker is a persuasive story-teller, unsentimental and inspiring in his assault on the emotions. The heart-tugging of Randy Edelman's musical score here is excessive, though.

As in *The Sheltering Sky* (reviewed below), the young couple in Paul Schrader's *The Comfort of Strangers* (18, Curzon Mayfair), are trying the effects of an exotic setting to rekindle love that has gone cold. If they had seen Nicolas Roeg's *Don't Look Now*, of course, Rupert Everett and Miranda Richardson would have known better than to choose Venice.

They are lured to the palazzo of a sadistic, dubious aristocrat (Christopher Walken), who has been obsessively photographing Everett. They fail to take warning from their first night's residence: Walken's entertainment includes punching Everett in the stomach, and spitting their clothes off to the wash — chance at least gives them the chance for decorative madness. Without revealing more, it may be said that things turn out

much worse on the second night. Adapted for the screen by Harold Pinter, Ian McEwan's psychological horror-mystery is disquieting and poignant. Pinter is most comfortable in the earlier scenes, with the edgy dialogue of the couple trying to remake their relationship. Later he is uneasy with the more extravagant characters of the warped Walken and his crushed, compliant wife (Helen Mirren). One central problem is that the story revolves around other people's obsession with the radiant beauty of Rupert Everett, a fantasy that would have been more credible several years ago.

The Big Picture (15, Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Fulham Road) was produced while David Putnam was production head of Columbia Pictures. A sharp satire on the fads and follies of Hollywood, it was perhaps too near the truth to be welcomed there.

Kevin Bacon plays a young hopeful, head-hunted from film school. The dream is brief. He sees his cherished script dismembered by cannibalistic production conferences, and finds himself caught up in a conventional movie-world cycle, from favour of this week to next week's scrap heap.

Christopher Guest, the writer and director, sharpened his teeth on *This is Spinal Tap* and the satirical television show *Saturday Night Live*. The portrait-caricatures are drawn from life: J.T. Walsh as a suavely crass studio head, Teri Hatcher as a starlet lavishing affection where

ever there is a job prospect, Martin Short in a marvellously funny performance as a cocaine-fizzed agent. Bacon and his friends in the lower depths of the film capital are touching; and part of the fun of this witty picture is spotting guest appearances, including John Cleese, Elliott Gould and Roddy McDowall.

Joe Minton saw the dream of *The Big Picture* come true. He was still a student when his script for *After Hours* was filmed by Martin Scorsese. *Vampire's Kiss* (18, Cannons Panton Street, Oxford Street) confirms his talent, and his distinctive, darkly comic tone. The film is a psychological horror story about a young literary agent (Nicolas Cage), whose obsessive erotic fantasies of vampirism gradually drive him mad. The



Dennis Quaid, Tamlyn Tomita (right) and Caroline Junko King in *Come See the Paradise*

equivocal tone of Minton's fantasies is demanding: the British first-time director, Robert Bierman, fails to maintain the tricky balance between horror and comedy, and Nicolas Cage's performance is loud and out of control.

Though its lengthy dialogue confrontations sometimes look as if they were really intended for the stage, Ron Nyman's script for *Love Hurts* (15, Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Panton Street) beautifully captures the difficulties and the compensations of family life. No less accurately, Bud

Yorkin's direction evokes the atmosphere of a little Midwestern town and a house bursting at the seams with guests assembled for the wedding finale.

Jeff Daniels, as the son of the house, finds himself in uncomfortable proximity with his ex-wife. "I don't hate you because we're divorced," she says, "I hate you because we were married." They are not the only ones in trouble, but the message of this gentle, serious little comedy is that human relationships somehow survive, rickety as most of them are.

Dr M. (18, Cannons Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea) represents a major lapse in Claude Chabrol's career: the first time, even in his least successful films, he has not even been entertaining. Chabrol's master-criminal — a dubious tribute to Fritz Lang's *Dr Mabuse*, fruitfully overplayed by Alan Bates — uses electronic media to inspire the populace of a still-divided Berlin to self-destruction. Hapless, beautiful Jennifer Beales is exploited as his angel of death. The story stays at a virtual standstill throughout two hours.

otherwise belief would be strained. In Bertolucci's method we are more conscious of the unreality, even romantic fantasy, when Kit is carried off by tribesmen. Almost embarrassed, it seems, to follow the incidents of Bowles' narrative, Bertolucci allows this most important part of the film to become elusive, unconvincing.

The late Jill Bennett makes a spongy last appearance as Mrs Lyle, the henna'd horror, though Timothy Spall is, physically at least, odd casting for her weedy and incestuous young son. Bowles himself, an octogenarian pachyderm, makes occasional visitations as a bar-room Chorus, adding not much.

DAVID ROBINSON

More menacing than sheltering

Port and Kit are vulnerable, however: although they are in love, even friends, they are spiritually estranged. This vulnerability of emotional separation exposes them to the dangers of an alien land. Their travelling companions — the playboy Tumbarello (Campbell Scott), the warlike writer Mrs Lyle (Jill Bennett) and her odious, haremous son (Timothy Spall) — are protected by their very insensitivity.

Bowles' story follows them on a journey that reaches peaks of nightmare horror and destroys them, one physically, the other mentally. The screenplay by

Bertolucci and Mark Peploe is superficially faithful to the structure and content of Bowles' novel. Unlike most screen adaptations, however, it is actually less concrete than the original.

While Bowles dissects his characters' sentiments and reactions with clinical detachment, he places them very precisely in a world of vivid detail. The reader is made hypersensitive to the colours, sounds, smells, patterns and objects that surround them, the expressions and gestures of the people they meet.

Bertolucci concentrates more exclusively and more internally

upon his main characters and their sentiments, relying upon the (certainly remarkable) skills and sensibility of his actors. John Malkovich and Debra Winger. Vittorio Storaro is a photographer whose every shot is a privilege to watch. He, too, is concerned less with the specifics of settings and action than with establishing mood: close-ups, lit like paintings and as expressive, stunning landscapes, with skies that more often menace than shelter.

There is hazard, though, in this change. Because Bowles deals in concrete, undeniable detail, he is able to carry us into areas where

Who would have imagined *The Sheltering Sky* (18, Odeon Leicester Square) as a cherished project of Robert Aldrich, best known for *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* and *The Dirty Dozen*? For years he clung jealously to the rights. Now, long after his death, his son William Aldrich has conceded them to Bernardo Bertolucci, and become executive producer of the film. Bowles' first novel, published in 1949, was set in 1947 in a North Africa still not recovered from the upheavals of war. A young American couple, Port and Kit, arrive in North Africa, proud to be travellers — people with the perception to compare other civilisations with their own — and not mere tourists.

TELEVISION

The seeds of a harvest of death

IN WHAT is proving to be its strongest season, BBC 2's *Timewatch* went back last night to the beginnings of the Vietnam War, not 1963, but 1945. Then, in the wake of the Japanese surrender, Saigon first became a battleground, albeit one of considerable

eccentricity and confusion.

At that time, when the 16th Parallel was first established, North Vietnam was run by an anti-French communist group led by Ho Chi Minh, on behalf of Chinese nationalists supported by the Americans, while the south was uneasily

held by the British, on behalf of the old French settlers. In order to maintain any semblance of control, the British had to enlist the aid of the Japanese they had recently disarmed, to patrol the streets, since they were the only organised or disciplined military unit in the area.

History is said to repeat itself as fate. On this occasion it started out as one: the British officer told to leave Bangkok to take charge of Saigon had to send to the local school for an aide in order to establish where it might be. Japanese chauffeurs were to be found driving their officers around in American cars within weeks of the bombing of Hiroshima.

At best, the whole affair resembled a shaky comedy written on a confused morning by Peter Ustinov; at worst, it was the laying of the minefield which eventually exploded beneath the Americans 20 years later. At the time, 600 British soldiers were told to disarm 50,000 Japanese, untested in battle and unpredictable in peace. They were also expected to maintain law and order in a country almost twice the size of Britain, aided only by a small taskforce of Indian soldiers who were themselves fighting for independence at home.

Unsurprisingly, the result was anarchy, chaos and a victory for Ho Chi Minh. The British and French were soon happy enough to leave him to his own territorial imperatives until, of course, his troops, whom the Americans had cherished and trained, became their most lethal post-war enemies. Charles Wheeler's report was characteristically cool, intelligent, and deeply bemused by the quirks of rapidly-shifting post-war political alliances.

Back in contemporary Greenwich Village, there must be some central casting agency from which inane interviewees are sent out to address the camera on the subject of recently defunct artists from the Andy Warhol school of media shock. Last night's subject for Channel 4's *With-out Walls* was Jean-Michel Basquiat, an anonymous teenager in 1980 who was, by 1988, dead from a highly expensive drug habit, leaving behind some highly primitive, not to say childlike, collage and cartoon assemblages which are currently selling around Manhattan at \$500,000 (£254,000) a time.

The son of a middle-class accountant, Basquiat liked to pretend he was a starving apeman locked in a cellar until he produced the requisite number of masterpieces. His friends, in what they apparently thought of as loving testimony to his wit and intelligence, solemnly told the camera that he would spit at women while making love and that there was a "marvellous passion" about the way he ordered food in restaurants.

What was seen of Basquiat's work suggested a child let loose in a graffiti workshop: what was seen of his friends made Andy Warhol look like Kenneth Clark, and what was heard of Basquiat himself was seldom less than hilarious in a Pythonesque fashion.

"Those teeth you have drawn," an interviewer asked of Basquiat, "what are they?" "They are teeth," replied Basquiat with all the magnificent simplicity of the truly great primitive artist confronted by a hostile critic. After an hour of this kind of documentary, anybody could have written the script.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Loot for the lutes

A SMALL bombshell may hit the world of early music when details of how the Arts Council is proposing to allocate next year's grants in that area are published. Secret recommendations from the Council's early music advisory panel appear idiosyncratic. According to sources, £134,000 is available for distribution, of which £38,000 has been earmarked for the Early Music Centre.

Of the remaining £96,000 (to cope with applications from 22 groups), £20,000 is recommended to go to the English Concert for a British tour; another small group will apparently receive £18,000 for two concerts. In contrast, two

famous ensembles receive pitances. Roger Norrington's London Classical Players is expected to get just £4,000, while John Eliot Gardiner's busy Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra get £12,000, having asked for £135,000.

Last chance...

WITH exemplary boldness, Ian McKeever suggested to the Whitechapel Art Gallery that along with his own landscape works, a selection of Emil Nolde's watercolours should be shown. Nolde painted in secret when prevented by the Nazis from doing anything else. The Noldes are tiny and jewel-like; the McKeever's, less photograph and more painting as his career progresses, are mostly large. Until Sunday at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (071-377 0107).

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Passion to produce

Jeremy Thomas, who raised the money for Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* and now *The Sheltering Sky*, talks to Quentin Curtis

In *Adventures in the Screen Trade*, William Goldman wrote: "Producers may just be the least understood figures in the industry." Jeremy Thomas, who, at 41, can lay claim to being Britain's most adventurous film-producer, if not its best known (fellow Oscar-winners Richard Attenborough and David Putnam are more in the public eye) puts the incomprehension down to the varying functions performed by different producers, and to myths often fostered by movies themselves. "Traditionally," he says, "the role of the producer is considered very vulgar, because of the caricature portrayed in cinema — that of a crass personality, chomping cigars."

Thomas himself, running his Recorded Picture Company from a loft in Soho, is far removed from the stereotype — widely read, and with a zest, culturally, for the "shock of the new" that is reflected in all his films. A laid-back manner masks the steel and energy required to prosper in the film-world. Bernardo Bertolucci, director of Thomas's latest production, *The Sheltering Sky*, (reviewed below, left) and of his most successful picture to date, the Oscar-winning *The Last Emperor*, once described him as "like a hustler in the fur of a teddy-bear."

He has chased money for films all over the world. His first feature, *Mad Dog Morgan*, was set and financed in Australia; five European banks paid for *The Last Emperor*, and its success enabled him to clinch a \$120 million (£61 million) film deal with the Japanese company Shochiku-Fuji, who distributed his earlier Far-Eastern venture, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*.

His career reflects his own internationalism, but is also symptomatic of the British film industry's declining ability to finance feature films. Though there have been contributions on recent projects from the merchant bank Hill Samuel (*The Last Emperor*) and Central Television (*Insight*), Thomas no longer holds his early "linguistic" belief that British films should be made by British companies. "I think now that film has to be about multinational companies."

The irony is that many of the conditions in Britain are right for film-making. "Every area of cinema has got excellence in it, and the facilities are outstanding. But the financial climate and our domestic market are against us. Whereas French and Italian films, with the advantage of language and exclusivity, can recoup on the domestic market, films in Britain have to compete in an electronic colony that is already saturated with English language films."

Things were different when Thomas's father and uncle were in the business — his father Ralph Thomas directed films such as *Campbell's Kingdom*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and the *Doctor* movies, and uncle Gerald made many of the *Carry On* series — and the old studio system operated, feeding an integrated cinema circuit a popular product.

Those days are clearly gone, but Thomas feels that more can be done, particularly by the government, to support the British industry and give British filmmakers parity in co-productions with other European countries,

whose governments provide subsidies and tax breaks for investors. There is no shortage of investors in Britain, according to Thomas, if the conditions are favourable. "London is already one of the financing bases for films — but not necessarily British films."

Attempts to goad the government into action may flounder on the fact that politics is one of the few businesses able to match the film industry for precariousness. "There was an enormous amount of 'massaging' of people in government to try and get support. But almost everyone involved has now left office, including the prime minister. New contacts will have to be made."

Raising finance is only half the battle for independent producers. After shooting, there is the crucial business of distribution: a particular problem in the United States, where the major studios monopolise access to cinemas. Thomas admits that "the relationships have not been made in heaven. But I am hoping to improve them: I have to live with the fact that I need good relations to get my films exhibited in America to enough people."

The combination of commerce and creativity involved in production suits Thomas well — his passion for movies, matched by an excitement at clenching deals. But he became a producer "by default", after starting in the film labs and rising through the ranks to editor. The ambition to direct has been softened by his love of producing, but still persists. A directorial project, he says, is progressing, "slowly, slowly".



Thomas Bertolucci called him a "hustler in teddy-bear fur"

In the meantime, there is David Cronenberg's film of *The Naked Lunch* to be shot in January, and a long-standing project with Nagisa Oshima about Sessue Hayakawa, the only Japanese actor to become a major Hollywood star — a collision of cultures characteristic of Thomas's films, which display a remarkable degree of thematic unity, despite the fact that most have been put to him by directors. Thomas sees recurrent ideas in his work, but denies any artistic manifesto, and still less commercial calculation. "You don't plan it to that extent; you're just thinking 'Can this be a wonderful story, and would I want to see it?'"

60 YEARS

IN THE PRESENCE OF
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COURTESY OF SNOWDON

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THE BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
THE ROYAL BALLET
THE ROYAL NORTHERN BALLET

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SALLY HODGES
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NICHOLAS GRACE
SIR CHARLES MACCORMACK
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AND, WORST OF ALL...
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Parkinson's Disease can be anybody's disease. You can help to make it nobody's disease. Men and women all over the world suffer from this disabling condition. Researchers need your help. So do more than 100,000 sufferers in this country alone.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

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Researcher as modern guru

THEATRE

No One Sees The Video Royal Court Theatre Upstairs

LIKE Dante's sad adulterers whirling past on the wind, playwright Marina Abramovic's characters whisk by in their little bells, as sealed, pre-packaged and self-sufficient as the frozen pizza that Elizabeth has to open with her teeth. Elizabeth is *not* *mezzo del camin di nostra vita*, disorientated by a failed marriage and lost in a dark wood of humiliation and bewilderment.

The unlikely Virgil who illumines and defines her underworld is Colin, a market researcher. Under his interview manner—part psychiatrist, part prosecutor—Elizabeth blossoms from harassed housewife picked off the street at random into a ruthless manipulator of opinion (or so she and the writer would have it): a dedicated prober of public opinion on female sanitary equipment or hot, milky drinks.

The idea of market research as the means to reveal spiritual poverty is logical. Today the researcher has succeeded the poet in exploring the human psyche, defining its boundaries and plumbing its shallows. If Crisp's play depicts Elizabeth's zestful welcome of corrupted values, it also shows Colin aware of the emptiness in which they work. "Did I invent the void?" he roars angrily. Like Dante's lost souls, he and Elizabeth pass, at emotional cross-purposes, after an initial attraction; he to the barren lethargy of a stale marriage, she to casual pick-ups in provincial hotels and tentative advances to her hostile teenage daughter.

All of which has some beautifully funny moments, aided by Lindsay Posner's direction and an unerring observant cast. The play opens with short television scenes with the air of revue sketches to them: Allen's brightly vacuous researcher butchering Celia Lurie's distraught Elizabeth with the enigmatised chirpiness of an air pizzazz. "Do you ever use frozen pizza?" is a disconcerting opening gambit.

Two male beer-drinkers then bandy the phrases that have become the equivalent of warning or compliant grunts from wild animals forgetting hostilities to share the same drinking hole ("it's cultural... it's free choice... homosexuals and mudlarks? To me they're a mental illness").

The carefully plotted writing, with each scene laying clues to the further development of each character, pinpoints Elizabeth's fall: when she uses marketing jargon to her daughter at tea-time. "You have never said such before," the girl says, puzzled, scenting her new role as a social simpleton.

Ultimately it is too schematic. Elizabeth is too neatly transformed into all she mistrusted at the beginning of the play; but the performances are faultless. Simon Vincenzi's stark set—charcoal executive carpet, a curved brown wall receding behind a free-standing screen—provides a clean, sharp background for Lurie's grief (real tears) to crystallise into relentless ambition, and for the wonderful Allen to beam, gawp or sneer.

The teenage Jo is beautifully caught by Emer McCourt, especially when she flirts with her mother's friend: giggling, fidgety, nervous, mock-sophisticated, self-consciously serious. Stephen Tompkinson is touching as the young man Elizabeth picks up in a



Celia Lurie and Stephen Tompkinson in *No One Sees The Video*

hotel, a nice change from his complacently opinionated young reporter in Channel 4's *Drop the Dead Donkey*. Neil Dudgeon charts Colin's journey to self-loathing with enough breezy anger to make it convincing, and the

look of a glazed-eyed, inquisitorial fanatic that, combined with his hairstyle, disconcertingly recalls the recently embattled member for Henley.

MARTIN HOYLE

JAZZ

Dave Brubeck/LSO Barbican

DAVE Brubeck celebrates his seventieth birthday next month, which must seem startling to those who whined away their youth to the sound of "Take Five".

His best work has stood the test of time. The disputes about whether or not he could really swing, or whether Paul Desmond ever received enough credit for his contribution, now have the

ring of ancient theological debates. The music he has produced since the break-up of the Quartet—and which took up a fair portion of this concert—has never commanded the same following. A pupil of Darius Milhaud, Brubeck joined the long line of composers who have made sincere but ill-fated efforts to fuse jazz with classical music.

His first oratorio, *The Light in the Wilderness*, met with a muted response when it was premiered in 1968. Brubeck still perseveres with it, performing three extracts for this evening. Earlier, the movement from the Christmas cantata

La Fiesta de la Pasada was most notable for its use of those familiar Brubeck devices: heavy block chords and a 5/4 time signature. One of his most memorable jazz compositions, "In Your Own Sweet Way", a ballad which received the Miles Davis seal of approval in the mid-Fifties, was met with great relief. Stephanie Grappelli arrived on stage to add a humble solo which made the LSO redundant. Grappelli also brought distinction to a tribute to Ellington, an otherwise lumbering melody which included an all too brief version of Brubeck's "The Duke".

There was no avoiding "Take Five", which raised its head at the close. By this time, Brubeck was surrounded by his four sons, all accomplished musicians. His old friend, the clarinetist Bill Smith, stole the thunder on "Blue Rondo à la Turk" while the violins chugged away in the background. Orchestras add prestige, of course, and the players look very glamorous in their dinner jackets. But this was one of those rare concerts where one would have gladly swapped the massed strings for an inexpensive synthesiser.

CLIVE DAVIS

DANCE

London Contemporary Sadler's Wells

WHATEVER its offstage problems, London Contemporary Dance Theatre let none of them show when it opened its London season on Tuesday. This looks like a company riding high, having revitalised itself from a low point two years ago.

That 1988 season already contained, as its saving features, two of the three choreographic elements leading to present success: Paul Taylor and Jonathan Lunn. Taylor's contributions to the repertoire are continued this time by a revival of *Cloven Kingdom*, his exhilarating mixture of elegance and crudity as a lighthearted satire on social behaviour.

Lunn, in 1988, was just showing the first convincing evidence of a personal, although then unruly, talent, which now looks like making him the first choreographer of real substance to come from the London Contemporary stable since Alston and Davies two decades ago.

In *Goes Without Saying*, on this week's programme, he gets his dancers moving with an energy and variety rare among young British choreographers, and provides a context of implied mean-

ing for their relationships, as one woman on an upper level broods irresolutely while others purposefully move in the room below.

Dan Waggoner's latest contribution to the repertoire, *White Heat*, having its London premiere, is perhaps the best of the trio. It is based on an individual but convincing interpretation of Bartók's Fourth String Quartet.

The 12 dancers are used in two groups, four women who cohesiveness and generosity of behaviour gradually influences a mixed group of eight.

Nothing is made explicit, but the gradually extended use of space (its effect reinforced by Jennifer Tipton's marvellous lighting) gives a real sense of purpose to Waggoner's characteristically bold and sumptuous choreography. As always, he combines unexpected movement, an ear for the shape and texture of music, an eye for revealing behaviour, and a sense of the drama inherent in everyday life.

Although the three works can bear the imprint of a distinct creative mind, together they make an unusually congruent programme. Special credit to the musicians under Barrington Pheloung and Ann Morrice, who give strong support, with scores ranging over three centuries from Corelli to Orlando Gough.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Orfeo Queen Elizabeth Hall

RESTORING forgotten reputations from the 17th century is the business of William Christie's group, Les Arts Florissants. On this occasion, the team turned its attention to an Italian composer, Luigi Rossi, who wrote *Orfeo* for the 1647 carnival in Paris.

The libretto, by Francesco Buti, concentrates on, and often makes comic, the machinations of the various deities, so that the roles of Orfeo and Euridice are relatively modest compared with, say, Monteverdi's operatic version of the myth, composed 40 years before. Much emphasis, for example, is placed on the entertaining character of the Old Woman, really Venus in disguise. (Orbitantly sung in this concert version by a characterful high tenor, Jean-Paul Fouchécourt), and on Aristaeus, Euridice's unrequited lover. The scene in Act III which depicts Aristaeus's distracted ravings is at once absurd and poignant, just one example of Rossi's sure dramatic instinct. The soprano Sandrine Piau negotiated this character's changes of humour well. But the work is full of equally effective set pieces. Juno and Venus (now undisguised)

fight their opposing corners, for instance, like two Margaret Thatchers opposing each other at Question Time, at least that was what the passage sounded like with Marie Boyers and Noemi Rime in these roles.

Both musically and dramatically, however, the high point of this long work comes at the end of the second act, when Euridice dies. For this, Rossi composed music of the most intense passion, exploiting the emotional power of his flexible musical language to its limits. Monique Zanetti responded with a performance of wondrous vocal control, hurrying nothing. After this, the opera becomes a touch anti-climactic, and neither Rossi's version nor Agnes Mellon's rather pale-toned singing helped it. Another minor disappointment was the counter-tenor Benoit Thurel's Apollo, which surely should have been sung with a brighter voice, though Bernard Delestra, as Augur and Pluto, was, as if in compensation, properly rich and imposing.

Christie directed a score remarkable for its harmonic and stylistic fluidity with both savvy and momentum. His players sustained their excellence throughout, while the complement of six plucked continuo instruments and the athletic pair of cornetti demanded particular praise.

STEPHEN PETTIT

NEW RELEASES

● **BLUE STEEL** (18): Tough, blood-soaked action thriller with a tenuous slant on director Kathryn Bigelow. James Leavelle stars as a violent cop entangled in a psychotic war.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310) Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Mezzanine (071-430 8111) Prince Charles (071-437 8181)

● **THE EXORCIST** (18): Unearthed, terrifying sequel which tries to make up in gritty acting what it lacks in plot.
Whisper (071-438 0310)
Whisper (071-438 0310) Mezzanine (071-430 8111) Prince Charles (071-437 8181)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London (and where indicated with the symbol #) on release across the country.

● **BETSY'S WEDDING** (18): Alan Alda's uneven but engaging comedy about pre-marriage nerves.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **BRID ON A WIRE** (18): Emily-headed chess movie, with only Alan Alda and Gail Patrickson to pull it through.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **CRIMINAL LAW** (18): Mysterious thriller about a man accused of murdering a woman.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **DARKMAN** (18): Liam Neeson as a disfigured special forces soldier on the hunt for a criminal.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **FLATLINERS** (18): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Spacey as medical students who witness a near-death experience.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **THE FUGITIVE** (18): Kevin Costner as a man on the run from the law.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **THE HANDMAID'S TALE** (18): Margaret Atwood's novel about a future society.

CURRENT

● **AM ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (18): Jane Cameron's excellent film about the New Zealand writer James H. Jones.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

● **ADAM BEEBE**: Strongly acted and moving version of George Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman*.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **THE FALL**: Arthur Miller's story of a man who kills his wife.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **BAJAZZ**: Rock in the heart.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY**: Shared experience of a man's three-act story.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **BOONCE**: Disappointingly empty of two modern comedies.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **MISS JULIE**: Powerful performance in a classic of social climbing and sexual desire.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **THE BOYS NEXT DOOR**: Tom Griffin's promising view of the mentally ill.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **ETTER JENKS**: Miranda Richardson as the sister of a man who kills his wife.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **GASPAR**: John Gielgud's story of a man who kills his wife.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **HAMILTON**: Charles Cullen's story of a man who kills his wife.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

● **HAPPY LAUGHING**: Felicity Kendal, Peter Bence and Simon Gray's story of a man who kills his wife.
Cannon Cinema (071-438 0310)

TODAY'S EVENTS

THE DRAWINGS OF JASPER JOHNS: The American artist's drawings of the American flag, 1955-1961, are shown at the Tate Gallery.

THE ROYAL BALLET: A varied programme of classical and contemporary ballets.

THE VANISHING SPIDER: A play about a man who kills his wife.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC

Tonight's programme of classical music, conducted by Leonard Slatkin, includes the *Symphony No. 5* by Beethoven and the *Symphony No. 9* by Schubert.

WORD-WATCHING

SAXXONS (a) An Eastern bishop's vestment much like an alb or chasuble, from the Greek *sakchos*, a bag. It probably dates from the 11th century, and is the chief Eucharistic vestment of those of high rank, and was originally confined to Archbishop and Metropolitan, but the use has lately become laxer and more widespread.

HIPPIC (b) Relating to horses, from the Greek *hippos* a horse. "One day we shall all grow up, when the hippic and the reputation have been achieved, then we shall have everything with nothing but the fairly recent sea-cortex."

GOBO (c) A device used to protect a camera lens from light, also a device to prevent unwanted sound from reaching a microphone, or an object which is to be photographed, but the use has lately become laxer and more widespread.

OLYCOOK (d) A cake of dough, sweetened and fried in lard, originally a Dutch delicacy, from the Dutch *olievolk* "oil-eater". "The doughnut originated in Holland, where it was called *olyvol*."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

White to move. Can he win?

White has a king's pawn on e4, a queen's pawn on d4, a knight on f3, a bishop on c4, a rook on a1, a rook on h1, a king on e1, and a queen on d1. Black has a king's pawn on e5, a queen's pawn on d5, a knight on f6, a bishop on c6, a rook on a8, a rook on h8, a king on e8, and a queen on d8.

SILENT NIGHT OR FIRST NIGHT?

WEST END THEATRE GIFT TOKEN

THE GIFT IS YOURS, THE CHOICE IS THEIRS

THE LONDON THEATRE OFFICE

THE REHEARSAL

THE REHEARSAL

THE REHEARSAL

THE REHEARSAL

THE REHEARSAL

THE REHEARSAL

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THE REHEARSAL

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OPERA & BALLET

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THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP

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**"Tom had
Health Insurance,
House Insurance,
Car Insurance.**

**If only he'd
thought of making a will"**

Most people with family responsibilities take great trouble to protect their loved ones.

But sadly, too many neglect to take one essential precaution.

They don't make a will. And the result can be a disaster for those they leave behind.

For a widow it can mean that financial worries are added to her grief. Without a will to protect her, the security she thought she had may turn out to be an illusion. She may even lose her home because other family members have a claim on it.

And for the whole family it can mean distressing legal proceedings over 'who gets what'.

Now the Red Cross has produced a booklet telling you how to protect your family by making a will.

For a free copy of *Caring for the next generation*, the Red Cross Guide to Wills and Legacies, simply post the coupon below to: The British Red Cross, FREEPOST, 9, Grosvenor Crescent, LONDON SW1X 7BR. Or phone Curia Hammond on 071-235 3424 (LX).

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 31-38
● LAW 40
● SPORT 40-44

BUSINESS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Canary £500m refinance in place

OLYMPIA & York has completed its £500 million refinancing package for the Canary Wharf project being built at London's Docklands.

Michael Dennis, head of O&Y's London operation, confirmed that interim refinancing was in place. A syndicate of ten banks, six from Europe and four from North America, is involved.

O&Y is believed to have abandoned plans to participate in a large office development at Tokyo Bay.

Brent Walker shares bounce

Shares in Brent Walker Group, the leisure and property company, fell 15p to 76p before recovering to end 1p higher at 92p as the group tried to find the £20 million shortfall on its £103 million convertible bond issue. Brent Walker must find a minimum of £16 million by midnight tomorrow or find itself in default of its bank financing arrangements.

Guinness affair

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, will not seek a court order under section 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act in respect of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Farnes and Sir Jack Lyons, the four businessmen convicted in the Guinness affair.

Tempos, page 33

Hambros warns

Hambros, the merchant banking group, has warned shareholders that profits from its investment operations are unlikely to continue at recent high levels. In the half year to end-September they contributed £11.5 million to group pre-tax profits, 19 per cent higher at £42.5 million. Fully diluted earnings fell from 14.7p (14.1p) a share. The interim payout rose 11 per cent to 4p.

Tempos, page 33

Water payout

North West Water will pay an interim dividend of 6p for the six months to end-September, its first half-time payment since last year's privatisation, and a rise in pre-tax profits to £115 million (£91 million).

Tempos, page 33

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9730 (-0.0015)
German mark 2.9280 (+0.0087)
Exchange index 94.6 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1686.2 (-13.5)
FT-SE 100 2144.3 (-15.2)
New York Dow Jones 2554.21 (+10.40)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23053.88 (-569.63)
Closing Prices ... Page 38

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 12% 1/8%
3-month eligible bills 12% 1/8%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7% 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.00-7.07%
30-year bonds 10% 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.9730
DM: £2.9280
Sfr: £2.4688
FF: £5.0085
Yen: £256.00
Index: 34.8
ECU: £0.701689
ECU1: £2.173

GOLD

London: Fixing:
AM \$384.75 pm \$385.00
close \$384.75-385.25 (1985.00)
New York:
Comex \$385.90-386.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$32.35 bbl (\$33.00)
Dumfriesshire latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.45	2.45
Austria	21.50	21.50
Belgium	33.15	33.15
Canada	8.1	8.1
Denmark	11.71	11.71
Finland	7.37	7.37
France	6.55	6.55
Germany	3.04	3.04
Greece	320	320
Hong Kong	1.45	1.45
India	15.10	15.10
Italy	2.290	2.290
Japan	220.75	220.75
Netherlands	3.425	3.425
Norway	11.20	11.20
Portugal	208.75	208.75
South Africa	5.25	5.25
Spain	162.50	162.50
Sweden	11.40	11.40
Switzerland	2.60	2.60
Turkey	5750	5750
USA	1.65	1.65
Yugoslavia	35.00	35.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 198.8 (October)

German delay leaves room for UK rate cut

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

GERMANY will not increase its interest rates next month, as many analysts had previously expected, but the Bundesbank is likely to tighten monetary policy between January and March.

The timing of the Bundesbank's next interest rate move could be crucial to Britain, as it will be almost impossible to reduce sterling interest rates in the wake of a German move in the opposite direction.

The authoritative view that Germany will not need to tighten its monetary policy until January at the earliest, will thus give the new Chancellor a brief window of opportunity to cut British rates before Christmas.

The City had long speculated on a cut in rates after December 14, the day when the next set of British retail prices index will be published. But in the past few days there had been reports from Wash-

ington that Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, was planning to recommend an increase in German rates at the central bank's council meeting on December 13. This now seems extremely unlikely.

While the Bundesbank council, which holds a regular meeting today in Frankfurt, takes a final decision on German rates, most members are satisfied with the German economy's performance. They are primarily concerned over inflationary pressures intensifying in the New Year.

The biggest worries centre on next year's public sector deficit, currently estimated at DM150 billion, and on the behaviour of German trade unions, several of which have lodged claims for 10 per cent pay increases in the new year.

The Bundesbank is likely to wait until January at the earliest to see how the deficit and wage inflation trends develop, but it is certain to push interest rates upwards

early next year on any deterioration on either front.

The Bundesbank realises a decision to tighten monetary policy would add to tensions in the European Monetary System and might provoke a confrontation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government.

But it is unlikely to be deterred by pressures from Bonn or other European capitals. The Bundesbank has long made it clear it would welcome an EMS realignment to strengthen the mark against other European currencies.

Such a move seems to be ruled out for political reasons. But the Bundesbank view is that European countries that refuse to realign their currencies against the mark will simply have to accept higher interest rates, if these are deemed necessary to stabilise the German economy.

Whether such rate increases prove necessary depends, in turn, on how the new German government, which will be elected next weekend, performs. If the government produces a credible plan to keep next year's public sector deficit below DM150 billion, Bundesbank economists believe the present level of German interest rates might be enough to control inflation.

If a small increase in short rates were necessary, it would probably be offset by a decline in long-term bond yields, they believe. Senior officials at the finance ministry in Bonn insist that the DM150 billion ceiling will not be exceeded, adding that fiscal measures will be taken, if necessary, to keep borrowing down.

However, the central bank remains sceptical about Bonn's willingness to keep to its borrowing targets and is determined to pre-empt any additional inflationary pressures before they arise. The Bundesbank is willing to give the government a month or two after the elections to curb their inflationary behaviour.

The pound was steady against the mark at DM2.9260, but fell against a stronger dollar to \$1.9725. The stock market lost 15.2 to 2,144.3, as profit-taking continued after last week's post-Thatcher rally.

Leading article, page 19
Comment, page 33

Long-term inflation predicted at 1.5%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ANNUAL inflation averaging below 2 per cent will allow Britain to join a European economic and monetary union by about 1997 without serious damage to growth and jobs, according to a leading research institute.

The forecast in the latest review of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research could encourage the new prime minister to seek a compromise formula at next month's intergovernmental conference in Rome to ensure that Britain is not left behind on monetary integration.

When justifying its decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System last month, before the figures showed inflation had peaked, the government said that it was the future path of inflation that mattered, not the past.

NIESR predicts gradual convergence between Britain and the economies of its European partners, as British inflation slows to an average

1.5 per cent in 1994-99 from its present peaks. Retail price index inflation is expected to slow to 4.9 per cent by the fourth quarter next year.

The economy is seen recovering gradually from recession next year, helped by a small reduction in interest rates, to achieve growth of 1 per cent, excluding North Sea oil, the same as this year.

In the latter half of the Nineties, short-term interest rates are forecast to have dropped to 7.5 per cent. The rate of growth will be then average about 2.5 per cent, with unemployment about 1.9 million, having fallen from a 2.1 million peak in 1992. Next year, the number of jobs is set at 2 million.

NIESR foresees the current account deficit only narrowing to £14 billion next year from £16.5 billion in 1990, much less than the improvement the government expects. The review sees the deficit persisting into the late Nineties, when it will still average £8.4 billion.

Weak dollar hurts firms

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders have acknowledged that companies are being hit hard by the weakness of the dollar, and called for an early cut in British interest rates to help ease companies' difficulties.

A number of companies with large export businesses agree that the sterling exchange rate against the dollar is causing them problems. Because America is also in recession, a number of companies there are trying to increase their penetration of markets in Britain and elsewhere.

Sterling remains above \$1.97, having touched \$1.96 after the Conservative party leadership fight was resolved.

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry publicly acknowledged the problem yesterday, following a meeting of the CBI council.

John Banham, the CBI's director general, said there had been a marked fall in British companies' export prospects. Doug McWilliams, the chief economic adviser, said that while the dollar rate was a problem, there was little that the British government could do about it within the fixed band of the exchange-rate mechanism. However, given the width of the band, there was scope, even within the ERM, for cutting interest rates further in Britain.

There are high expectations

in the market of a cut in rates as early as this week. Mr McWilliams said: "We hope that the new chancellor will be able to take action in this area as quickly as possible."

If there were not cuts before the end of the year, he said, companies would be forced to renege even further than at present.

Mr Banham said yesterday that the review of the community charge, promised by John Major in his leadership campaign, should include a re-examination of the Uniform Business Rate, its business equivalent. He said business was paying about £2 billion more than the cost of the services it was receiving.

No stampede for British Sugar

Tate & Lyle bids alone

By MICHAEL TATE AND ANGELA MACKAY

NEIL Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, confirmed that he had formally lodged a bid for British Sugar by yesterday's deadline. The tender however included "a big proviso" relating to the current investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Shaw, who was unveiling T&L's annual results for the year to September 30, said the group was prepared to see its borrowings more than double if it went ahead with buying British Sugar. However the deal would be partly financed. "We believe there would be no serious difficulty in raising new equity," he said.

The exact mix of debt and equity would depend on the financial markets at the time, but we could see our gearing level increase to between 150 and 175 per cent," he said.

required to give certain undertakings if we are to be allowed to pursue our bid," he said. These undertakings could, however, have an impact on the price T&L was prepared to pay.

Tate & Lyle was the only bidder to declare its hand at yesterday's deadline in the British Sugar auction. About five companies are thought to be in the running for Berrisford International's biggest asset, but Tate & Lyle remains many people's favourite, even though it is still waiting for a verdict from the MMC. That is due by January 18. A decision would then normally be expected from the trade department within two or three weeks.

Associated British Foods, and an American company, are reported to be among the runners. Berrisford's preliminary results are due in two

weeks and should coincide with the announcement of a series of asset sales that will further cut debt from about £1 billion to less than £800 million.

Mr Shaw conceded that the acquisition of British Sugar was a "defensive" move, which would strengthen the group's cane business. But there was a warning that some British Sugar plants might be closed. Mr Shaw was confident that the group could live with a high gearing level. "In the past year we have reduced our gearing level from 159 per cent to 69 per cent and we can do it again," he said.

Group pre-tax profits for the year ended last September were £218 million against £200.4 million. The final dividend is 6.7p making 10p a share, against 9p last time.

Tempos, page 33



Treasury move: David Mellor leaving 10 Downing Street yesterday

City welcomes 'terrier' Lamont as Chancellor

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE City has welcomed the appointment of Norman Lamont, former chief secretary to the Treasury, as Chancellor of the Exchequer in John Major's first cabinet.

Alastair Ross Goobey, chief investment strategist at James Capel and once a special adviser to Mr Lamont, thought the appointment would be a welcome one in the City.

"He's a real terrier when it comes to negotiating over public spending, as any minister will tell you. He's certainly not a man with the economic background that Lawson had, but neither was Major and he made a very good fist of it," he said.

Mr Lamont, as Mr Major's

campaign manager, had been widely tipped for the job, and his appointment would come as a welcome signal to the square mile that economic policies would continue unchanged, he said. "It's confirmation that there's really no change to what's going on."

Mr Lamont's deputy at the Treasury will be David Mellor, who was arts minister under Margaret Thatcher. Mr Lamont, who has served a four-year apprenticeship at the Treasury under Mr Major, and before him Nigel Lawson, has been a stout supporter of their strategies.

The defeat of inflation is likely to remain his priority and the imposition of a single

European currency will be vigorously opposed as before. Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors, said: "We have every confidence that Norman Lamont will continue as Chancellor to apply the same priorities and disciplines - sound money, the elimination of inflation and firm control over public spending - as Mr Major."

The Confederation of British Industry would not comment on the changes, but privately CBI leaders approve of the Treasury moves and of the retention of Peter Lilley as trade and industry secretary.

Leading article, page 19

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Comment, page 33

Wagon up 14% to £9.5m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A STRONG overseas performance has ensured further profits growth at Wagon Industrial, the engineering, materials handling and office equipment group, for the six months to the end of September.

Pre-tax profits for the period advanced 14 per cent to £9.5 million on sales up 9 per cent to £134.8 million. Earnings increased 10.2 per cent to 15.5p, while the interim dividend is 10 per cent up at 6.325p.

Paul Taylor, the chairman, said all divisions improved their profits compared with the first half of last year, although some companies operated below capacity because of weak demand.

The company was well placed to face continuing economic difficulties because of its healthy overseas earnings base, the strong market position of many of its British subsidiaries and its ungeared balance sheet, Mr Taylor said.

The figures included a half-year contribution from Paul Forkardt, the West German engineer acquired last year.

Mr Taylor described the long-term prospects for the subsidiary as "excellent", although it had a divisive effect on the group trading margin at the half-year stage.

Name change at Magnet to improve firm's image

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

MAGNET Group, the highly-borrowed kitchen retailer which was rescued from financial disaster by its bankers this year, is proposing to change its name to Alredale Holdings to improve its image.

Louis Sherwood, group chairman, has written to the convertible and preference shareholders outlining the case for a name change and calling an extraordinary meeting on December 20. He wants to distance Magnet Home Improvements Ltd and its subsidiaries, Magnet Home Improvements Ltd has no net borrowings and has substantial net assets. The banks which have funded Magnet Group have no direct change over assets of the operating companies.

Mr Sherwood says by changing the name of the holding company, the group will reduce the risk of bad news from the parent company damaging customer and supplier confidence in the operating company. The stores will continue to trade under the name of Magnet.

The group is expected to announce sizeable losses in January for the year to end-March. But this is likely to be the last time the group reports heavy exceptional charges. The Magnet board is believed to have considered taking out an insurance policy to protect customers' deposits in the event of financial disaster. Such a policy was bought by Lowndes Queensway before it went into receivership and similar steps to safeguard consumers have been recommended by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Magnet directors are believed to have decided against the policy in favour of introducing interest-free credit on kitchen ranges. The offer, which is now available in all Magnet stores, means kitchens are delivered before the customer has to pay.

Customers still have to pass the group's credit rating test but a group spokesman says credit is available to nearly all of them. The interest-free credit offer is also designed to boost sales. Depending on the sales cycle the offer is available for between three and nine months.

Magnet Home Improvements says sales in August, September and October were strong.

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Magnet Home Improvements says sales in August, September and October were strong.

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Price war: Graeme Sealbrook says Kwik Save is the discount retailer of the Nineties

Kwik Save shrugs off Aldi

By OUR CITY STAFF

KWIK Save, the discount food retailer, has given warning that the recession will worsen before it improves. Sir Timothy Harford, the chairman, said food retailers would not be immune forever from rising unemployment and the consumer spending squeeze.

Kwik Save is weathering the storm so far and expects profits to grow in the current year. In the year to August 25, pre-tax profits rose 16.5 per cent to £85.3 million on sales increased 22.7 per cent to £1.52 billion. Earnings per share grew 14.7 per cent to 36.25p and the final dividend is 8.4p, making 12.1p for the

year, an increase of 15.2 per cent.

Graeme Sealbrook, the chief executive and managing director, said the group did not feel it was suffering as a result of the activities of Aldi, the German discount food retailer that is threatening to start a price war in Britain. "We are not complacent about Aldi but we believe Kwik Save is the discount retailer for the Nineties," he said.

The group, which has more than 700 Kwik Save and Lateshopper stores, had like for like sales growth of 10.2 per cent in the year.

The company opened 28 new stores last year and five

were relocated, taking the total amount of space to more than 4 million sq ft. The group plans to open 45 stores in the current year at a cost of about £45 million, which will push its capital expenditure programme up from £61 million last year to about £90 million in the current year.

Simon Keswick, the chairman of Dairy Farm International, which has a 25 per cent stake in Kwik Save, is to join the board as a non-executive director. Arthur Edwards, an executive director of Kwik Save since 1971, is retiring from the board next month. The group's shares fell 5p to 449p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US considers relaxing airline ownership rule

THE department of transportation in America has said it may relax the law that restricts the level of foreign ownership of American airlines to a maximum of 25 per cent as part of an effort to ease carriers' severe financial problems.

The measure is one of several under consideration, said Jeffrey Shane, assistant secretary at the department. He said the department was looking at ways "to enhance the health of the airline industry". The financial state of American airlines, suffering from the sharp increase in the price of fuel, would be improved by allowing foreign companies to take more than a total 25 per cent stake in them, Mr Shane said. National security and international competitiveness must be considered before any such move is approved.

Losses cut at Antares

ANTARES Group, the fuels to industrial and pharmaceutical equipment wholesaler formerly United Guarantees, has reduced its pre-tax losses from £931,000 to £744,000 in the six months to end-June. Interest payments are down from £172,000 to £148,000. The loss per share has been trimmed from 1.97p to 0.96p. There is no interim dividend.

Optometrics lifts profits

OPTOMETRICS Corporation, the American optical components and instruments maker that is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, lifted pre-tax profits from £125,000 to £134,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose 17 per cent to £1.85 million and earnings from 0.9 cents to 1 cent. There is no interim dividend. The shares were unchanged at 8p.

Multitone advances

MULTITONE Electronics, the radio pager manufacturer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.75p (nil), after the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £905,000 in the six months to end-October, compared with £73,000 last time.

Turnover climbed from £10.1 million to £10.7 million. Earnings per share stood at 4.1p, against a 0.4p loss per share last time. Interest payments were trimmed from £336,000 to £159,000, after stocks and debtors were further reduced. The group's borrowings have been cut from £4.3 million to £1.24 million in the year to end-October.

Export growth boosts Alba

STRONG export growth helped Alba, the audio, television and consumer electronics group, to lift pre-tax profits 8 per cent to £1.05 million in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 1.71p to 1.85p. The interim dividend is 1p (1.5p). Group turnover advanced 48 per cent to £46.8 million with overseas sales accounting for about 40 per cent of total.

Bexbuild up to £555,000

BEXBUILD Developments, the USM property investor, reported interim pre-tax profits of £555,000 (£129,000) in the six months to end-September, largely due to a £411,000 surplus on the sale of an investment property. Turnover fell to £347,000 (£1.06 million) but earnings per share rose to 7.7p (3.3p). There is again no interim dividend, but an increased final dividend is expected.

ABI matches forecast

ABI Leisure Group, the caravan and leisure home manufacturer floated on the stock market in February, has matched its prospectus forecast with a 38 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £5.9 million for the year to end-August.

David Eastwood, managing director, said domestic sales had fallen by about 20 per cent since the end of the year, but export markets, which account for 30 per cent of turnover, held up well. Steps have been taken to reduce stocks, Mr Eastwood said. An forecast 3.1p final dividend represents an annualised 4.7p payout.

'Outlook bleak' as Trimoco tumbles

By MARTIN BARROW

A SHARP fall in demand for vehicles continues to affect Trimoco, the motor dealer.

The company, which reported taxable profits almost halved to £3.81 million last year, experienced a further decline during the first six months of the current year. Profits were down from £2.8 million before tax to £1.7 million for the period ended September 30.

Earnings fell from 1.6p a share to 0.89p. The interim dividend is maintained at 0.6p a share but directors gave warning that the outlook for the second half of the year remained bleak.

Keith Hill, the finance director, said: "September was

exceptionally poor, probably the worst on record, and there has been little improvement during October and November."

The company, which has nine Ford dealerships, said it would be unrealistic to expect a quick recovery in demand. Turnover declined from £150.73 million to £133.30 million. Profits before interest charges fell from £4.61 million to £3.83 million. Net interest charges rose from £1.80 million to £2.12 million.

Automotive interests, including dealerships and leasing activities, earned £2.66 million (£3.55 million). Property interests contributed £1.17 million (£1.06 million).

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Paterson Zochonis plc

1990

Summary of Results
Year ended 31 May 1990

	£ 1990	£ 1989
Turnover	224.9m	205.6m
Profit before tax	25.0m	23.4m
Profit after tax	15.6m	15.3m
Earnings per share	30.51p	30.14p
Total dividends per share	9.45p	8.60p

1990 Review. Profit before taxation at £25.0m, was slightly higher than in 1989 with the improvement coming from operating profits and related companies. The increase in interest payable was matched by higher investment income.

The Nigerian operations performed well with the improvement in profits in local currency terms more than sufficient to offset the fall in value of the Naira during the year.

In the United Kingdom, Cussons made good progress with higher turnover, profit and market share in its major product categories. Cussons Australia and New Zealand showed further gains.

In Indonesia and Thailand progress continues to be made in strengthening the manufacturing operations and creating distribution networks. Elsewhere in South East Asia efforts are being made to extend existing distribution arrangements and develop new markets.

Current Year. In the current year the higher oil price, if sustained, will assist Nigeria but it is unlikely, at least in the short term, to allow for any significant easing of the pressures affecting local industry. Elsewhere in Africa the economies of those countries having to import their oil requirements will be badly hit and even the more developed areas of the world will be affected to varying degrees.

At present, returns from the various group operations indicate that results for the half year to 30th November 1990 should be broadly similar to those of the same period last year.



PZ PATERSON ZOCHONIS plc, BRIDGEWATER HOUSE, 60 WHITWORTH STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6LU
Africa, United Kingdom & Europe, Australia & Far East.

Shanks & McEwen up 25% to £10.4m

By MATTHEW BOND

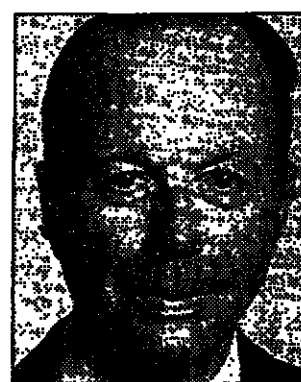
A STRONG performance by the expanding waste handling division of Shanks & McEwen has enabled the company to report a 25 per cent increase in interim profits.

In the six months to September 29 Shanks made pre-tax profits of £10.4 million.

The interim dividend is increased by 20 per cent to 10.2p (8.5p), with the rise matching the increase in earnings per share.

Although turnover in the company's construction division fell by about 22 per cent, Peter Runciman, chairman, said Shanks' waste handling was relatively unaffected by the downturn in the economy.

"Domestic and commercial waste tonnages are relatively unaffected by what now ap-



Confident: Mr Runciman fears to be a serious recession. Industrial waste generation is falling and in this category the sharpest drop is in waste from house building and general refurbishment work, which does not represent a major part of our work."

At the higher priced end of the waste market, the area in

which Shanks specialises, Mr Runciman expects prices will rise by 15 per cent this year. "At the top end of the market we are meeting very little competition and we do have the ability to handle prices quite significantly."

With an overdraft of only £1.9 million Mr Runciman believes the company is in good shape to make acquisitions.

However, he does not anticipate any imminent moves as he expects the price of cash acquisitions to fall over the next nine months.

Mr Runciman is cautiously optimistic about the prospects for the full year.

He said: "While we will not be totally exempt from the market pressures, which are affecting much of the industry, we expect to produce results in line with our objectives."

Thomson profits slip despite UK recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

THOMSON Corporation, the Thomson publishing and travel group with many British interests, reported net income of \$302 million for the nine months to end-September, against \$318 million in the first nine months of 1989.

Reported profits were marginally lower, despite a significant recovery by the group's British travel operations, which include the Lunn Poly and Thomson Holidays travel agencies and Britannia Airways, the charter airline.

Travel activities earned operating profits of \$125 million (\$54 million), helped by profits of \$44 million from aircraft sales. Turnover was \$1.54 billion (\$1.74 billion).

Thomson Newspapers, which includes the group's publishing activities in North America, contributed profits of \$207 million (\$221 million). Specialist information and publishing, including Thomson Regional Newspapers in Britain, increased earnings from \$188 million to \$226 million.

Investment trust for smaller firms

ABERFORTH Partners, the investment manager formed by five former Ivory & Sims executives, has received its first £15 million of funds by launching the Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust.

Aberforth sees the recent underperformance of smaller companies' shares as an opportunity to invest.

Shares in the investment trust, which carries the acronym ASCoT, have been placed among pension funds, insurance companies and managers of discretionary private-client funds and will be listed on the stock exchange from December 10.

Wescol passes final dividend

By PHILIP FANGALOS

WESCOL, the structural engineering group based in Halifax, West Yorkshire, which came to the USM in October 1989, is passing its final dividend after a slump in profits. Shareholders were paid an interim dividend of 1.5p. A total of 4.5p had been forecast when the company came to the USM. There was a 0.3p loss per share, against earnings of 11.5p.

Pre-tax profits plunged from £1.48 million to £60,000 in the year to end-July despite turnover ahead by 37 per cent to £26.7 million.

The group was affected by exceptional losses of £1.19 million, mainly arising from the appointment of receivers at Rush & Tompkins in April, which resulted in losses of more than £900,000, and two other companies in July.

Operating profits slipped from £1.67 million to £1.53 million, while interest payments rose from £192,000 to £279,000.

Stephen Brown, the finance director, said: "We're picking up a lot of work. We're extremely busy." Margins have been under pressure, but Mr Brown added: "It's a hard market, but we're feeling buoyant."

The board intends to resume dividends "as soon as possible". Based on current trading and order intake, the board expects to declare an interim dividend on the profits for the first half.

John Hicks, the chairman, said: "All parts of the group are trading profitably and the board is confident this will continue."

NSM returns to interim payout list

NSM, the mining, building products and waste disposal group, has welcomed new shareholders with its first interim dividend for five years. Institutional investors were brought into the company last month through the stock market placing of Anglo United's 20.55 per cent stake. But the payout of 0.5p was offset by a fall in pre-tax profits to £7.2 million (£10.6 million) in the six months to end-September. Donald Carr, the chairman, blamed the result partly on lower margins in the British energy and building products operations.

Fresh plea on power prices

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LARGE users of electricity are renewing their demand for a longer period of price protection as part of the transitional arrangements for the privatisation of electricity.

The Energy Intensive Users' Group (EIUG), the multi-industry group representing large, energy-intensive sectors of British industry, is pressing the energy secretary to extend the current, one-year period of protection on price. Large electricity users account for almost 15 per cent of British electricity sales.

Large industrial users currently have a one-year period of price protection, running from last April until March next year, which limits the prices charged to an increase of no more than inflation above 1989-90 prices.

EIUG says that this protection contrasts unfavourably with the periods given to other users of up to eight years in some cases and, in particular, with the three-year protection period given to British Coal and domestic consumers.

The large users are seeking a similar, three-year period. The group says that without

an extension of the protection period, large industrial users will face power price increases of about 25 per cent in April, which, it says, will jeopardise their export performance and investment prospects.

John Cox, director general of the Chemical Industries Association, said: "We welcome the introduction of competition in electricity supply. All we ask is parity of treatment with the other participants in the market to ensure an orderly and equitable transition to a fully competitive market."

A short and shallow US recession

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Meanwhile, over there, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, is worrying about the weakness of the dollar, a concern shared equally, if not more so, by businesses over here. But the two sides of the Atlantic are viewing life through different ends of the telescope.

Sterling is now so obsessed with the mark that the weakness of the dollar has crept up on us, taken us almost unawares. As everybody looked east, the world's most important currency was sinking in the west. Talk to the companies that are trying to sell commodity products in world markets, or who earn substantial sums of their profits in dollars, and the problem is brought into stark focus.

Had the pound not been coupled to the mark, a coupling that predates entry into the ERM by many months, it would have drifted down with the dollar. Good for industry, bad for inflation.

Norman Lamont, the new Chancellor, will have to chart his way through conflicting demands of limiting the recession and

controlling inflation, a task that is made all the more difficult by the timing of the electoral cycle. But it looks likely that for once the Bundesbank is minded to be accommodating, putting back its own interest rate rise until January or later, a move that while being made for its own domestic reasons, would open the window for a modest reduction here in December. Relations between the Bundesbank and the Treasury are seldom better than cordial, so we can safely assume that the timing is no more than a happy accident, and that there are no German backseat drivers hiding in the Chancellor's limo.

Back in America, they are talking of "meaningful downturn" rather than recession, which is curiously still being forecast by economists rather than recorded by them. Greenspan told Congress higher energy prices arising from the Gulf troubles, uncertainty about war

and credit tightening by US banks dragged America's economic output into a "meaningful downturn" in October and November. He said underlying inflation pressures in America were starting to ease before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but that "the events in the Gulf have altered the immediate economic situation rather substantially".

As the Fed chairman gave his views on the economic impact of Washington's involvement in the Gulf, the US commerce department, citing slower consumer spending, revised its estimate of economic growth for the third quarter to 1.7 per cent from 1.8 per cent.

The government will release its final estimate for GNP between

July and September next month, but the economic forecasters are tending to look for a short recession rather than anything more serious. It's not how it looks from here, but they should know.

No ill wind

Not for the first time, nor probably the last, the profits of Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communication Corporation had senior City analysts scratching their heads in bewilderment. So Kevin Maxwell tried manfully to explain to them how exchange gains realised largely from repaying short-term debt made up half the

group's reported pre-tax profits. Since the dollar debt was treated as a short-term liability and the group took a currency punt on the corresponding non-dollar cash flows to minimise the sterling cost of repayment, the resulting surplus from the dollar's weakness is treated as profit by accountants but as untaxable gains from repayment of debt by the tax man.

What matters, perhaps, is that Maxwell managed to repay the remaining \$525 million of the short-term debt from its American acquisitions between the beginning of the financial year and the October deadline. Foreign exchange gains made in the process offset half the cost to the balance sheet of translating the American assets at the latest parity.

Maxwell is budgeting for exchange gains of up to \$40 million in the second half but is banking on the dollar recovering. In any case, currency profits on

this exceptional scale will be ignored for the purpose of rating the shares.

With profits for the full year possibly reaching £180 million, you could say that Maxwell shares sell at less than eight times reported earnings but 15 or more times repeatable earnings. Since earnings per share will still be lower than 1984, however, MCC remains an income stock at best. The prospective yield is something over 13 per cent.

The next tranche of the syndicated loans are not due to be repaid until 1992 but debt, reduced since end-September from about £1.9 billion to £1.65 billion, is still troublesome at about 1.8 times net assets. Asset sales have not been going too well, with yet more of the regular transactions between Mr Maxwell's private and public interests delivering much of the recent inflow.

A further \$380 million of sales are projected by the end of the year, either from peripheral assets, joint ventures or floating off chunks of core divisions. The ship is determinedly afloat but the balers will be kept busy.

Balancing Deutsche Bank's interests



Quiet changes at Deutsche Bank: Hilmar Kopper

THERE are testing times ahead for Deutsche Bank. The bank's strange involvement in the hostile bid by Pirelli, the Italian tyre company, for Continental, its German rival, underlines some of the dilemmas it is faced with.

The question is, how can Deutsche Bank combine its role as the country's largest bank and one of its largest institutional investors with that of becoming an ever more assertive player in the field of mergers and acquisitions?

Deutsche Bank's M&A business is run by Morgan Grenfell, the British merchant bank that it bought last year. So far, at least from Morgan Grenfell's point of view, everything has gone more or less to plan.

The Morgan Grenfell team, led by John Craven, who is also a director on the Deutsche Bank board, established itself as the German bank's dominant force in M&A, while being responsible for its domestic business.

Morgan Grenfell's most notable task in Germany is its role as adviser to Continental in the fight against Pirelli. But here is where the dilemma starts. Deutsche Bank holds about 5 per cent of Continental's shares, and Ulrich Weiss, a director of Deutsche Bank, acts as Continental's chairman.

After Pirelli made its bid, the board of Continental thought it would be wise to appoint Morgan Grenfell as the merchant bank to defend its interests, perhaps in the hope that this might secure the backing of Deutsche Bank and its many institutional "friends". If that was the idea, it did not work.

The appointment, it is believed, was not precipitated by Deutsche Bank, which may have preferred Morgan Grenfell to stay out of the fight altogether since the situation has left Deutsche Bank in a quandary.

It has been suggested that Hilmar Kopper, Deutsche Bank's chairman, was in favour of the Pirelli bid.

A joint Continental/Pirelli company would be a formidable force in the international tyre business and

would amount to a European solution.

In addition, Deutsche Bank, with its substantial Italian interests, is not inclined to alienate its Italian business partners.

Herr Weiss was also thought to have been in favour of a Pirelli bid, although he was persuaded by his board to change his view. The board is still clinging to what is likely to be an ill-fated hope that Continental can survive the deep recession facing the tyre industry worldwide as an independent company.

Deutsche Bank position, at least officially, is neutral

because of its role as a key shareholder and Morgan Grenfell's involvement in the bid. This is not an entirely credible position, although the situation could look even less credible from a different angle.

The danger, however, is that if Morgan Grenfell continues to advise German companies, many of which have Deutsche Bank as a shareholder, the German bank will increasingly neutralise its position. For an institutional investor the size of Deutsche Bank, that may not be healthy.

In the old days, which effectively ended last year

with the assassination of Alfred Herrhausen, the bank's chairman, there would have barely been a problem. Herr Herrhausen was a skilled negotiator, fiercely defending his bank's industrial involvement and in particular its controversial 28 per cent stake in Daimler-Benz, Germany's largest company.

Herr Kopper, his successor, has quietly changed the bank's perspective. He is more international in outlook, less corporatist. It is likely that the bank might in future act as a more aggressive shareholder.

This is to be welcomed, particularly since such a shift would amount to a significant contribution to levelling the playing field between Britain and Germany, allowing British companies to be more assertive in Germany.

For Morgan Grenfell to confine its German involvement to companies that are unconnected with Deutsche Bank is not a viable option, since this would impose daunting limitations.

But it is necessary for Deutsche Bank to make it abundantly clear that Chinese walls not merely exist but work effectively. It is not helpful to be neutral in situations that require a clear defence of the bank's interests.

Chinese walls were an issue in Britain a few years ago. They will become an issue in Germany from now on. Germany has always been a few years behind Britain and America in terms of financial sophistication.

The country, however, needs a more level approach to corporate finance, as reflected by the mess which Deutsche Bank has got itself into over Continental and Pirelli.

For Morgan Grenfell, a more level approach would be a welcome development since the merchant bank would then be able to act with fewer constraints, even if that meant running against some of Deutsche Bank's perceived short-term interests.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
European Business Correspondent

Dollar key to Tate & Lyle

TEMPUS

THE quest for British Sugar may grab the Tate & Lyle headlines, but the performance of the dollar remains the real key. Every cent of the dollar/sterling rate slices half a million off T&L's taxable profit, and analysts are already allowing for £12 million or more of currency drag on current-year profits.

While 9 per cent growth pre-tax last year matched most expectations, it was the reduction in gearing from 159 per cent to 69 per cent that impressed, particularly since the group is now contemplating more than doubling its borrowings with the purchase of British Sugar.

The odds must remain firmly against T&L winning control of its only British rival, in which event, and with 60 per cent of profits made in America, the management may need to cast around for an alternative acquisition in Britain.

Failure to acquire British Sugar should not, however, diminish earnings prospects. All the core businesses are in good shape, and there is more than a hint of exciting new products in the starch-related area in the short term. Pre-tax profits of £227 million this year would produce earnings of 31.4p, leaving the shares,

under a cloud since T&L expressed an interest in British Sugar, on a price/earnings ratio of 8.5 at 26pp, and a 10 per cent discount to the market. This reflects only the bid uncertainty, and the prospect of a fresh equity issue. For those who believe John Major will encourage a more consistent line at the trade department, they could prove cheap.

Hambros

HAMBROS escaped the pitfalls that have turned most of the banking sector into a disaster area. But analysts doubt that the good luck and judgment which pushed half-time profits to a 19 per cent gain will hold in the second half.

At £42.5 million, the figures benefited from a strong performance from banking, a sharp turnaround in the half-owned Hambro Countrywide and a better than expected return from the direct investment portfolio.

Banking profits of £32.8 million (£27.4 million) were helped by high interest rates, which lifted returns on the group's free capital. Leasing and asset finance were apparently the star performers, al-

though even Hambros's corporate finance activities made a good start to the year. The £80 million of new capital raised last year made a full six months contribution against four months last time. Bad debt provisions were a modest £4.5 million on £1.5 billion of lending assets.

Hambro Countrywide's return to the black ensured a turnaround of more than £7 million in the retail financial services division to profits of £1 million. Profits from Hambros' direct investment portfolio emerged at £17.3 million despite a four-fifths fall in income to £500,000 from the ungaraged property book.

The interim dividend is up 11 per cent to 4p per share, but a rising tax charge left fully diluted earnings at 14.1p (14.7p) a share. The tax charge, lower prospective interest rates and doubts that the direct investment performance can be sustained cast a damper over Hambros shares. They slipped 1p to 235p, trading on a prospective earnings multiple of about 9.5.

With lower exposure to corporate finance and fund management plus the prospect of improving housing mar-

NW Water

NORTH West Water does not want to use the word diversification for its £51 million purchase of three waste treatment companies, one in America, earlier this year.

Hesitation to be seen as too entrepreneurial is understandable. North West is one of only three water companies to have stepped any distance outside its core business. Of the other two, Thames' purchase remains an unknown quantity, while Severn Trent made a hash of its bid for Caird Group.

North West's interim figures, pre-tax profits ahead from a pro forma £91 million to £115 million, were accompanied by a cautious 14.6 per cent dividend increase, after 19 per cent and 16 per cent rises from Thames and Northumbrian respectively.

The company is set for its capital spending programme, while the shares, down 2p to 252p part-paid, trade on a prospective yield of about 7.5 per cent, in line with the water package. They should keep pace with rises in the sector if electricity distributors go to a healthy premium next month.

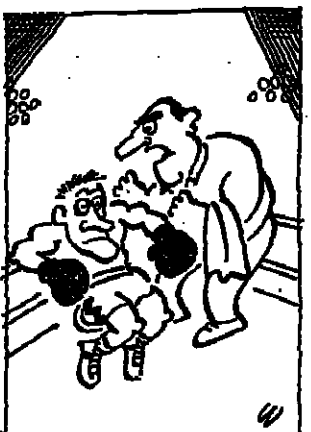
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The best — and the rest

DESPITE all the fears voiced over the future of the City of London, continental businessmen seem more optimistic than ever about prospects for the Square Mile. London is still their favourite business centre, says a survey of 506 European companies. London easily best Paris and Frankfurt, which only managed a poor third place, as Europe's largest business and financial centre. Two surveys, commissioned by Healey & Baker, the London chartered surveyor and Cushman & Wakefield, Healey's North American associate, should come as a boon to Britain's battered property market. The City's continued popularity is due to its "easy access to markets, first class telecommunications and low cost of quality labour," says Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner of Healey & Baker. Paris fared better in respect of quality of life and ease of travel. A similar survey in America also favoured London, with Frankfurt and Brussels in joint second place. But there is bad news for East Europe, where Prague, Moscow and Warsaw are seen as the least attractive places to do business. What price the much-vaunted East European investment boom?

Swapping sides

HENRY Berens, the City troubleshooter with an impressive list of company



"Keep that left going, watch his right, and don't over-expand into the leisure sector."

directors under his belt, has resurfaced as an executive director of Grandfield Rork Collins, the City public relations consultancy. After a career in the Square Mile spanning nearly 30 years, he may have a tip or two for companies seeking to improve their image. "I find myself on the other side of the table," says Berens, an old Etonian, who in 1985 helped transform Briant Investments — then a mineral and resources investment company — into Tyndall Holdings, the financial services group. In 1962, fresh from Oxford, he joined Whitehall Securities as a trainee fund manager, and ten years later was setting up an investment department for Trafalgar House. He was managing director of London Trust from 1982-85, and counts Professor

Roland Smith and Alastair Morton — both GRC clients, as it happens — among his friends. Berens resigned from Tyndall in September after a row over the write-down of its Australian interests.

Brain pickers

STOCKBROKERS be warned. One of the most successful entrants in the Superteams 1990 competition — won, as mentioned last week, by Hoare Govett — was a firm of headhunters. A team from Michael Page, the recruitment consultant in question, even came close to winning the investment game, to the embarrassment of rivals such as Charterhouse and Fuji Bank. While Hoare Govett won by making a profit of £52,000 against a falling market, Michael Page managed a £44,000 profit. Others were lucky to make any profit at all, and Hill Samuel Treasury even took a £15,000 loss. To be fair, the recruitment team left little to chance — it called up past and present clients, many of whom are successful fund managers, and asked their advice. "We spoke to many of our contacts," admits Paul Wilson, manager of Michael Page City, who hopes to repeat the success next year. The fun, part of the recent

Lord Mayor's festival, was in aid of Action on Addiction.

IN VANCOUVER, Dean Warren, aged 53, a heavy drinker, has been buried with a pack of playing cards and his credit cards "so he can have fun with friends in heaven — and pay his dues".

Short measure

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, was left with mixed feelings after addressing a dinner in the City last week. After giving the 1990 Churchill lecture on behalf of the English-Speaking Union, a body set up to foster good relations around the world, he was presented with a gift to thank him for his efforts. Lord Pym of Sandy, ESU chairman since 1987, proudly announced that the reward for his labour was a copy of Churchill's *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, in four volumes. The only problem, it transpired, is that researchers had been unable to find a copy of the fourth volume — despite scouring London bookshops. "We would be grateful to hear from any bookshop which might have a copy," says an embarrassed official, who hopes to hand over the full set as soon as possible.

GRAFFITO on a slimming centre's window in Dorchester, Dorset: "Overeating: When the wish runs away with the spoon."

JON ASHWORTH

HAMBROS PLC

Profit before tax up 19% Interim dividend up 11%

RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER

	1990	1989
Profit before tax and minorities	£42.5m	£35.8m
Profit after tax and minorities	£30.1m	£29.1m
Earnings per share — basic	15.4p	15.7p
— diluted	14.1p	14.7p
Interim dividend per 20p ordinary share	4.0p	3.6p

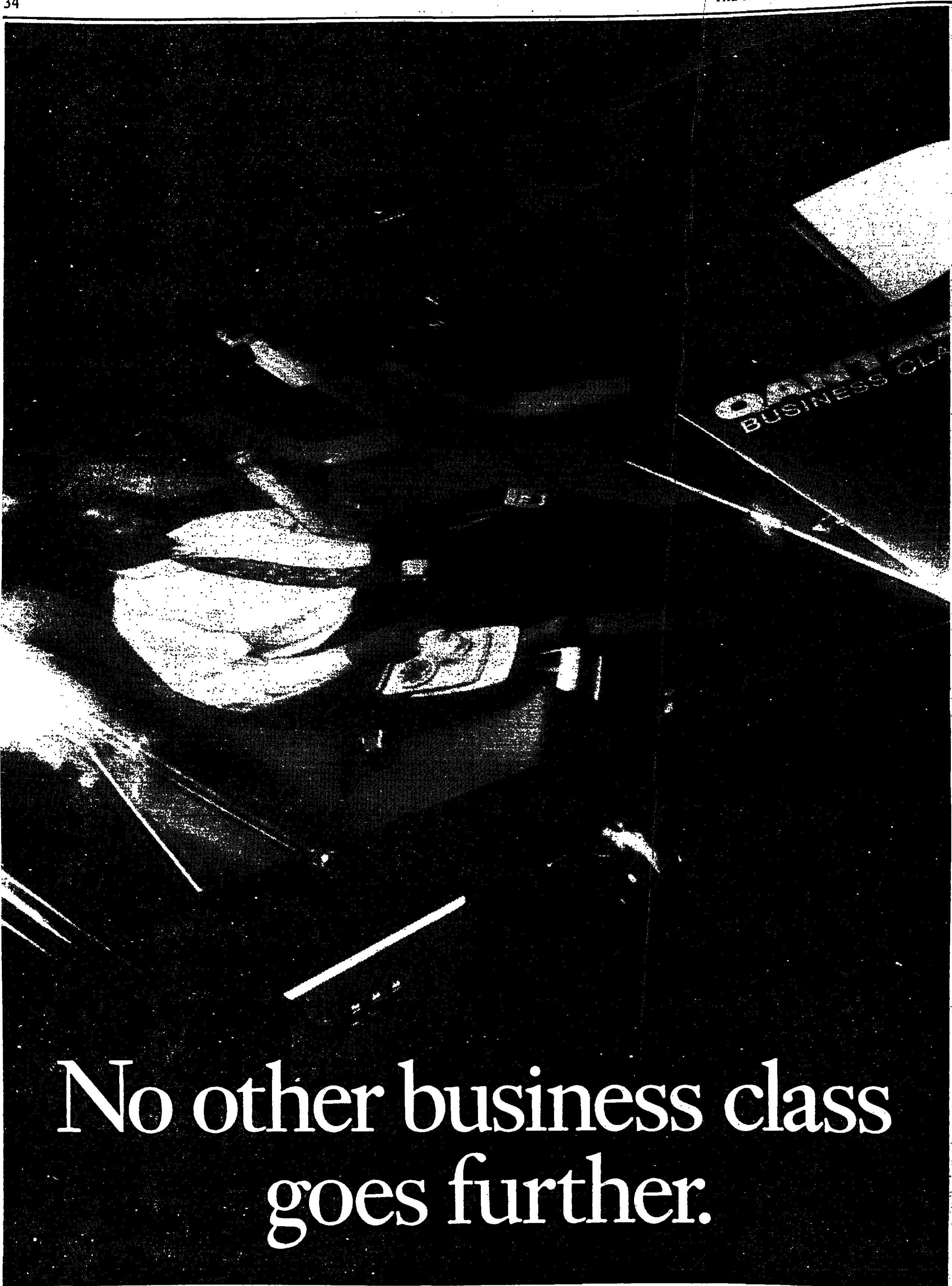
Attributable profit and fully diluted EPS broadly maintained

Banking profits increased by 20%

Balance sheet liquidity and banking ratios strong

Hambro Countrywide returned to profit

These results are unaudited. A copy of the interim report will be posted to shareholders. If you would like a copy please write to: The Company Secretary, Hambros PLC, 41 Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4HA.



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move faster
on selling
state assets

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	New Caledonia	Property	
2	Lords	Textiles	
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics	
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad	
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power	
6	Island Foods	Food	
7	British Gas	Energy, Power	
8	Bellway	Building, Roads	
9	Pratt Motors	Property	
10	BSI	Motor, Aircraft	
11	Syngam Ram	Industrial S-2	
12	Proving	Building, Roads	
13	Na-Swift	Industrial L-R	
14	Lea (Joh)	Food	
15	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
16	Tibber & Britton	Transport	
17	Smith David	Paper, Print, Ad	
18	News Int	Newspapers, Pub	
19	Vitaphone	Building, Roads	
20	Portico Food	Food	
21	Lip	Transport	
22	Kalamazoo	Industrial S-2	
23	Coastal (sa)	Industrial A-D	
24	LAM (sa)	Food	
25	Lip	Textiles	
26	Trison Europe	Oil/Gas	
27	RMC Op (sa)	Building, Roads	
28	FTI (sa)	Industrial A-D	
29	Shupe & Fisher	Building, Roads	
30	Vander Thorpe	Industrial S-2	
31	Cycle Psa	Oil/Gas	
32	Woolley	Industrial S-2	
33	Cambridge Bsc	Electronics	
34	Cherwell Case	Industrial A-D	
35	Scotone	Industrial S-2	
36	Medway	Industrial L-R	
37	Whitcomb Pumps	Electronics	
38	Young (H)	Industrial S-2	
39	Percon	Oil/Gas	
40	Calo Op	Oil/Gas	
41	Provident	Bank, Discount	
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D	
43	Merry Dicks	Transport	
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs Helen Gallagher, of Bellingham, Lancashire, and Mr Norman Woodley, of Sandhurst, Surrey, each receive £1,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	New Caledonia	Property	
2	Lords	Textiles	
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics	
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad	
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power	
6	Island Foods	Food	
7	British Gas	Energy, Power	
8	Bellway	Building, Roads	
9	Pratt Motors	Property	
10	BSI	Motor, Aircraft	
11	Syngam Ram	Industrial S-2	
12	Proving	Building, Roads	
13	Na-Swift	Industrial L-R	
14	Lea (Joh)	Food	
15	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
16	Tibber & Britton	Transport	
17	Smith David	Paper, Print, Ad	
18	News Int	Newspapers, Pub	
19	Vitaphone	Building, Roads	
20	Portico Food	Food	
21	Lip	Transport	
22	Kalamazoo	Industrial S-2	
23	Coastal (sa)	Industrial A-D	
24	LAM (sa)	Food	
25	Lip	Textiles	
26	Trison Europe	Oil/Gas	
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28	FTI (sa)	Industrial A-D	
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40	Calo Op	Oil/Gas	
41	Provident	Bank, Discount	
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D	
43	Merry Dicks	Transport	
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount	

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1	New Caledonia	Property				
2	Lords	Textiles				
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics				
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad				
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power				
6	Island Foods	Food				
7	British Gas	Energy, Power				
8	Bellway	Building, Roads				
9	Pratt Motors	Property				
10	BSI	Motor, Aircraft				
11	Syngam Ram	Industrial S-2				
12	Proving	Building, Roads				
13	Na-Swift	Industrial L-R				
14	Lea (Joh)	Food				
15	Woodside	Oil/Gas				
16	Tibber & Britton	Transport				
17	Smith David	Paper, Print, Ad				
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27	RMC Op (sa)	Building, Roads				
28	FTI (sa)	Industrial A-D				
29	Shupe & Fisher	Building, Roads				
30	Vander Thorpe	Industrial S-2				
31	Cycle Psa	Oil/Gas				
32	Woolley	Industrial S-2				
33	Cambridge Bsc	Electronics				
34	Cherwell Case	Industrial A-D				
35	Scotone	Industrial S-2				
36	Medway	Industrial L-R				
37	Whitcomb Pumps	Electronics				
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39	Percon	Oil/Gas				
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41	Provident	Bank, Discount				
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D				
43	Merry Dicks	Transport				
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount				

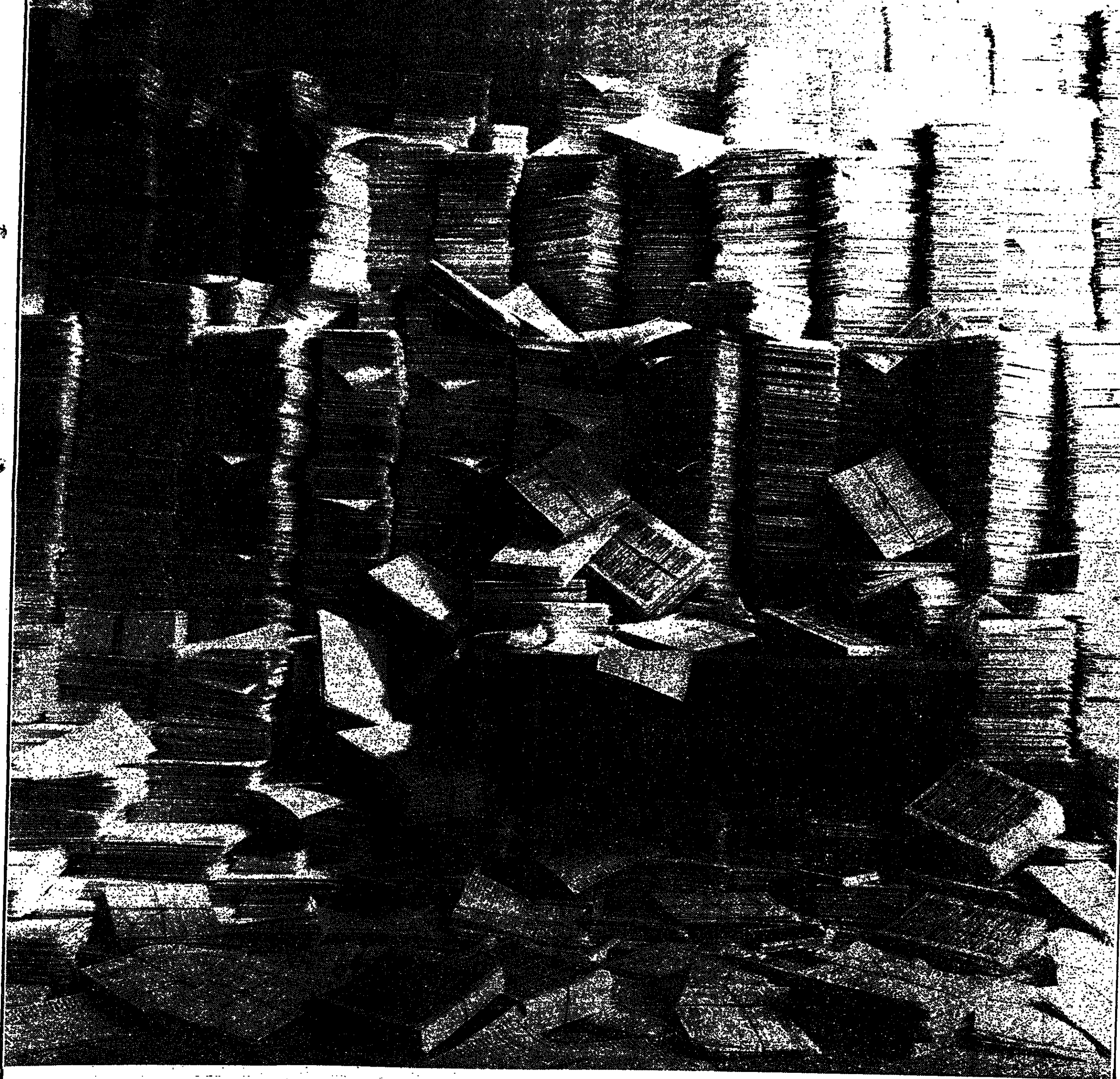
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	New Caledonia	Property				
2	Lords	Textiles				
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics				
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad				
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power				
6	Island Foods	Food				
7	British Gas	Energy, Power				
8	Bellway	Building, Roads				
9	Pratt Motors	Property				
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14	Lea (Joh)	Food				
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37	Whitcomb Pumps	Electronics				
38	Young (H)	Industrial S-2				
39	Percon	Oil/Gas				
40	Calo Op	Oil/Gas				
41	Provident	Bank, Discount				
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D				
43	Merry Dicks	Transport				
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount				

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1	New Caledonia	Property				
2	Lords	Textiles				
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics				
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad				
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power				
6	Island Foods	Food				
7	British Gas	Energy, Power				
8	Bellway	Building, Roads				
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41	Provident	Bank, Discount				
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D				
43	Merry Dicks	Transport				
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount				

UNDATED						
1	New Caledonia	Property				
2	Lords	Textiles				
3	Cable Wires (sa)	Electronics				
4	WPP	Paper, Print, Ad				
5	Metro (Joh)	Energy, Power				
6	Island Foods	Food				
7	British Gas	Energy, Power				
8	Bellway	Building, Roads				
9	Pratt Motors	Property				
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14	Lea (Joh)	Food				
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41	Provident	Bank, Discount				
42	Davis (Geddy)	Industrial A-D				
43	Merry Dicks	Transport				
44	Chor Allen	Bank, Discount				

171	16%	Trans	IL	2%	1990	170%	-%
126	12%	Trans	IL	2%	2001	128%	-%
125	11%	Trans	IL	2%	2003	130	-%
134	12%	Trans	IL	2%	2006	134%	-%
123	11%	Trans	IL	2%	2009	125%	-%
135	11%	Trans	IL	2%	2011	125%	-%
107	9%	Trans	IL	5%	2012	107	-%
115	10%	Trans	IL	5%	2016	114	-%
112	10%	Trans	IL	5%	2020	111	-%
85	0%	Trans	IL	5%	2024	93	-%

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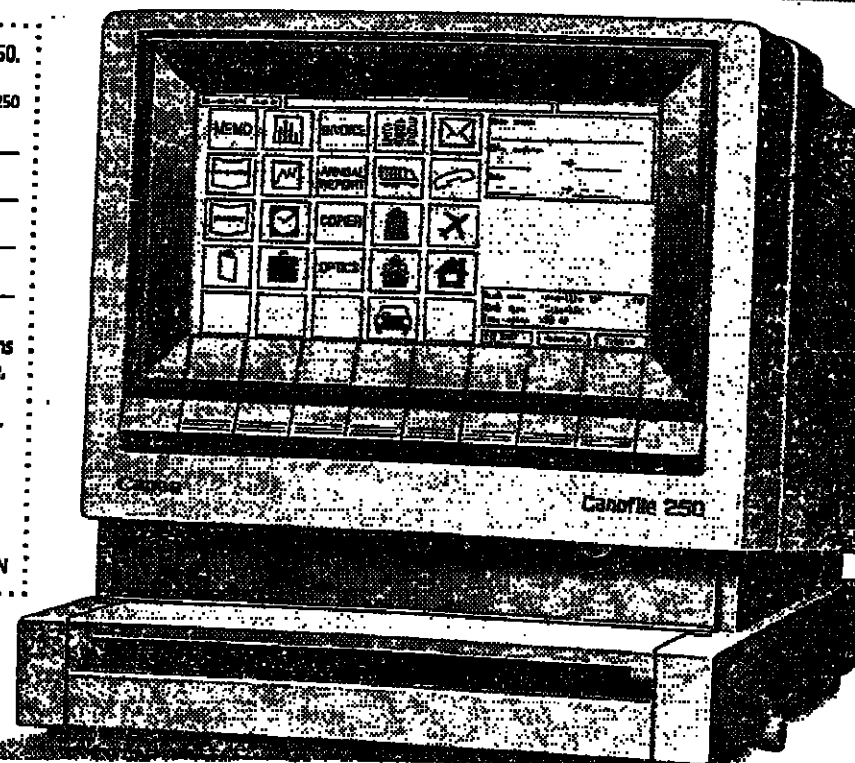
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

● SPORTS LETTERS 40
● RACING 40-41
● CRICKET 42

SPORT

A time for the minister to raise his game

DAVID MILLER

JOHN Major spends his leisure time watching Chelsea or Surrey at play. He is aware just how much sport matters to the ordinary man and woman. When the new prime minister has attended to more pressing priorities, he should see to it that for the first time the ministry of sport really matters.

To elevate Robert Atkins, the present incumbent, to cabinet rank, as a senior minister of state, would be one of the most popular and sensible alterations in government in the eyes of the common voter, next to adjustment to the community charge and inflation. Sport, after money, is the opium of the people.

The new prime minister is extraordinary in his ordinariness. Within Conservative ranks, it is

the uniqueness of his appeal. Atkins is one of his oldest friends in politics, for more than 20 years. The unofficial allegiance of Major and Atkins Inc could be, in the words of Peter Lawson, the general secretary, at yesterday's opening of the annual Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) conference, sport's dream ticket.

Atkins, who is agreeable not least for his modesty — "I know nothing about the job and am learning" — was quick yesterday to question whether he could be half of any dream. Yet with Kenneth Clarke and Tim Eggar

(education) and Chris Patten (Conservative party chairman) also attuned to sport, there has never been a better time for sporting interests — as represented by the CCPR, the forum of governing bodies and political and social watchdogs — to achieve significant advance.

Up to now, a succession of under-secretaries with responsibility for sport (sic) have been able to devote little more than an hour and a half a day to sport, the main function being to grant aid and monitor the funding of the Sports Council.

Sports ministers have been the nation's most prominent practitioners of sport for the disabled. In his address yesterday, his first important public statement, Atkins outlined a dozen or more

initiatives begun or encouraged by predecessors and now by him.

The influence on the National Curriculum Council (NCC) to contain more sport, with a working party being chaired by Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow, (department of education and science); the introduction of new spectator criminal offences (Home Office); the implementation of recommended new laws against drug possession (Home Office); a register of playing fields (environment); corporation tax relief (exchequer); rate relief for sports organisations (local authorities); all-seater stadiums (Home Office); and so on.

Yet repeatedly the minister for sport has lacked clout and significant development has been dependent on other ministries,

under prime ministers who were uninterested in, not to say ignorant about, sport.

Now is the moment to put sport properly on the map. By raising the job to a department of state, the prime minister would in one move resolve the controversial status of the Sports Council. It would become a genuine ministerial department and stop having to pretend it was not.

Independence on policy would still be maintained by individual governing bodies, at grass-roots level especially, and by the British Olympic Association for elite sport.

A properly funded and administered British International Sports Committee would be able, as Atkins suggested yesterday, to pursue the opportunity to regain

lost leadership within a rapidly changing European Community.

Yet Britain cannot hope to host satisfactorily international events without either direct government funding or huge taxation relief, for instance, under charitable regulations, as in the United States. Atkins is self-defeating at the first stride if he continues to insist, as he did yesterday, that "our role [government] cannot and should not be to support these [Olympics] with direct funding."

Manchester's bid to stage the 1996 Olympic Games failed in Tokyo partly because it had a brilliant conception but nothing in bricks and mortar.

Vitaly Smirnov, an influential member of the International

Olympic Committee from the Soviet Union, recently observed that in almost 20 years he had never had occasion to come to Britain for an official engagement.

The most valuable contribution Atkins can make to sport is to convince his friend at No. 10 that a century's tradition of self-sufficiency on the playing fields is no longer a virtue but, at least internationally, an insurmountable handicap. When aligned against the central funding, say, of China, Germany, or even impoverished Italy, hosts of football's World Cup, Britain will never be in the top league. Not unless Major chooses to change things.

CCPR's euphoria, page 43

AC Milan deny rumours of a Gullit transfer

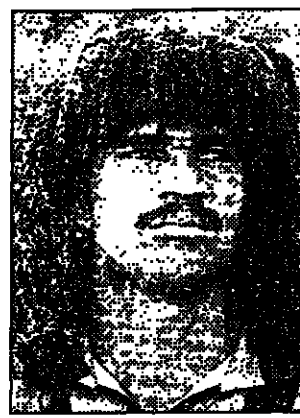
AC MILAN, the reigning European champions from Italy, yesterday denied reports that they are to part company with Ruud Gullit, the Dutch international, at the end of the season.

Gullit, aged 28, has failed to rediscover his best form after a one-year absence caused by a knee injury that required three operations, and, as a result, rumours have begun to circulate in Italy that the Milan club is already looking for a replacement for him next season.

Corriere dello Sport, the Rome-based daily sports newspaper, has already identified several possible successors, including the German forward, Karl-Heinz Riedle, who presently plays in Italy with Lazio in Rome, and the Yugoslav player, Dejan Savicevic.

Before the season got under way, Gullit's career at Milan was thought to be in some doubt, and the club was close to signing the Romanian international midfielder player, George Hagi, from Steaua Bucharest, to replace him. However, Gullit proved both during and after the World Cup finals, and Hagi eventually moved to Real Madrid.

"We have been patient with Gullit for nearly two years [when he was plagued by injuries]," the Milan coach, Arrigo Sacchi, said. "We shall be patient until he recovers the best form. We are not seeking any substitute for him." A Milan spokesman added that reports of a pos-



Gullit still recovering

sible transfer of Gullit to another club at the end of the present season were "groundless".

Gullit, the former captain of the Netherlands national team, blamed an uncertain physical condition for his recent mixed performances. "I will be at 100 per cent within a few weeks, when my efficiency will be fully restored. I am also suffering from the fact I am playing as a forward while I was used to starting the action from behind," he said.

The Dutch forward has scored just a single goal in ten Italian league matches this season and none in four European Cup matches.

Milan, seeking their third consecutive European Cup and their second Intercontinental Cup this season, have suffered two defeats in the three last league games and are in fourth place, two points behind Internazionale, their

city rivals, and Sampdoria, of Genoa.

Diego Maradona kept a discreet silence yesterday about his secret trip to Germany amid a flurry of rumours that he may leave Naples following seven turbulent years in Italy.

"I am not talking to the press," he said as he left the Naples training camp in Soccavo.

Maradona is said to be looking to play in a less stressful league than the Italian competition and among the clubs said to be chasing his signature are Middlesbrough of England, who have been pursuing Maradona since 1989, Boca Juniors in Argentina, and Pinn Future, of Japan. Bids for Maradona have reached as high as £10 million.

Japanese officials, who reportedly made the most lucrative offer for Maradona, emphasised that Japan's professional football league will not begin play until 1992 and that the Argentine would not be needed before then.

According to published reports in Germany and Italy, Maradona met the Middlesbrough president, Bernard Tapie, and the team's coach, Franz Beckenbauer, during Monday's trip to Germany.

Sources close to the Naples team suggested instead, however, that Maradona went to Germany for talks with his commercial sponsors and to buy a luxury car.

The Naples president, Corrado Ferlaino, emphasised that Maradona's contract with the club expires in 1993 and that an early split between player and club could be discussed only at the end of the current season.

Maradona has helped Naples win two Italian league titles and an UEFA Cup since his transfer from Barcelona in 1984. However, his spell at Naples has sometimes been acrimonious, in particular since the World Cup, when he captained Argentina as they reached the final, being Italy, in a controversial semi-final on penalties.

Marseilles deny big undeclared payments

MARSEILLES — Bernard Tapie, the chairman of the French champions, Marseilles, has denied claims that the club made undeclared payments of £1.6 million to Chris Waddle, the England international (Agencies report).

The claims, made in the satirical magazine, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, are the latest suggestions of scandal, after a succession of investigations into the way leading French clubs are run.

The magazine reported that Marseilles paid the money to two English firms, Happy Promotion and Consensus Limited, when the player joined the club from Tottenham Hotspur in 1989 for £4.4 million.

Tapie said: "The figures are just about right but the reasoning is wrong. We paid companies for work they did for us." He added that Marseilles often paid companies for taking care of travel and hotel arrangements when the club played friendly matches.

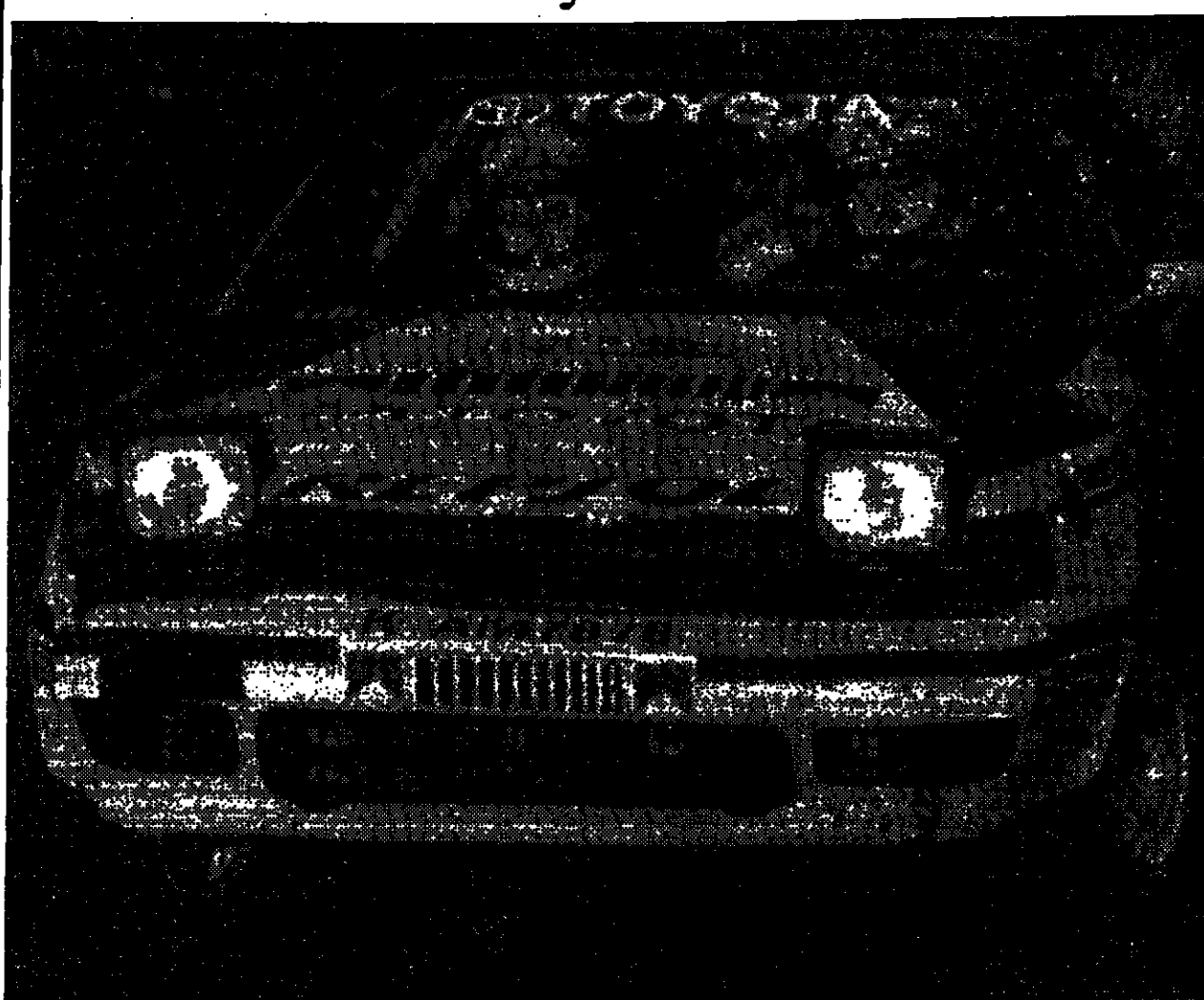
"If you want to be the best, you have to play in the same way as the big boys and that means you are compelled to deal with lawyers, agents, business partners," Tapie said.

Le Canard Enchaîné also claimed that £350,000 was transferred to an Irish-based firm called Cheir Development Ltd when Manuel Amoros, reputed to be France's highest-paid player at £180,000 a year, signed for Monaco two years ago.

Tapie said he saw nothing illegal in the arrangements. "If our arguments are not accepted then we will have to pay back taxes," he said.

● MOSCOW: Torpedo Moscow battled through the mud for a convincing 2-1 home win over Monaco in their UEFA Cup third round, first leg tie here yesterday (AFP reports). Torpedo looked sharper and more polished than their French first division opponents. Moscow's first-half goals were virtually identical. Savichev ran on to a through ball and netted from just inside the penalty area after 19 minutes, and Tishkov ran on to the second to chip in on the stroke of half-time.

Lombard RAC Rally winner crosses the line



Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya slide towards victory at the finish of the Lombard RAC Rally

Luck comes Sainz's way at last

By STEPHEN SLATER

CARLOS Sainz, of Spain, drove his Toyota Celica GT4 into Harrogate last night to win the Lombard RAC rally and gain some consolation for his disappointment 12 months ago. Last year, Sainz lost the lead when his car had a transmission problem with just five competitive miles remaining.

This year, victory turned into defeat for the overnight leader, Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, whose car somersaulted out of the rally after hitting ice on the third special stage of the day.

On Monday, it looked as if Sainz had been robbed of victory again. After dominating the third day, he was delayed for 40 seconds by a puncture, and lost the lead to Kankkunen.

In the early-morning chill of the Newcastle special stage yesterday, the Finn's luck ran

out. An unseen patch of ice on a fast S-bend at the start of the 11-mile stage caught out the Lancia driver and the car left the track at high speed, rolling over several times before coming to rest on its roof at the bottom of a bank.

Kankkunen and Juha Piironen, his co-driver, fought to escape through the windows as petrol leaked into the wrecked car. "My big worry was fire," said Kankkunen, but the worst of his damage was a bleeding nose.

Promoted to second place by the accident was the Mitsubishi of Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, who said: "If Juha had not gone off there, I would have. You just cannot see the ice."

Sainz returned to Harrogate with a comfortable margin of 1min 40sec over Eriksson. "I'm very very happy," Sainz said. He is the first non-Finnish or Scandinavian

driver to win the RAC since Roger Clark's success in 1976. "You have to have some luck on a rally like this. It's very tough rally and this year I had to think harder because we were using the pace notes for the first time," Sainz said.

"I feel sorry for Juha, we had a fantastic fight on Tuesday, but even when we lost the lead we still always believed we could win and were fighting back when he had his accident. From the first time I came to the RAC rally in 1987 it has always been my favourite, because it is the toughest in the world."

Although Sainz and Luis Moya, his co-driver, admitted to easing their pace to ensure finishing, the final special stages in the Lake District, the tens of thousands of spectators who again braved the cold were rewarded by spectacular action as a battle developed between the Ford of Colin

McRae and the Toyota of David Llewellin. McRae won their fight to be the first British finisher by finishing sixth.

Four days of regular contact with the scenery had taken their toll of the bodywork of McRae's Sierra Cosworth. "The car drives just fine, but it looks like a mobile shed," McRae said.

Llewellin, in eighth place, complimented his rival's driving.

In the Group N category for cars with minimum modifications from standard, Gwyn Evans paced himself perfectly to take victory and eleventh place overall.

LEAGUES FINAL. POSTINGS: 41. Special stages: 1. C Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 43min 16sec); 2. K Eriksson and S Piironen (Mitsubishi Galant V16, 5hr 44min 58sec); 3. M Eriksson and M Piironen (Mitsubishi Galant V16, 5hr 45min 40sec); 4. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 5. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 6. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 7. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 8. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 9. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 10. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 11. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 12. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 13. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 14. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 15. D Sainz and L Moya (Toyota Celica GT4, 5hr 45min 40sec); 16. 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